

CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Why the world hates Canada P.18

PLUS MARK STEYN ON THE LUNACY IN COPENHAGEN P.56

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WHY THE WORLD HATES CANADA

P.18



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HOLMES

HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAY.

CHRISTMAS EVE
ONLY IN THEATRE

CHRISTINE HERRITT beat a 12-year-old champion in the U200-m speed sliding race this March. She's going for gold in Vancouver.

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Never underestimate the competitive spirit of this speed skater

ever changing. Should a pattern of global warming emerge again, it will, in the view of the dissident scientists, be due to factors far beyond man's control. Should climate change suddenly manifest in an upsurge of silly wars such as replacing light bulbs, we are going to be sorry that we have not paid more attention to real actions. Information projects such as sea walls, and action to address disappearing permafrost.

Peter Schneider, Waterloo, Ont.

STEVEN'S COLUMN on climate change was one-sided, juvenile and misrepresents a climate war that the national media depicts as government inaction, obstruction and lowering of guard against winter, drought and lowering of guard against winter. The discussion in this country needs to be taken to a new level, one without labels, cynicism or sarcasm. Yes, there are limitations to the science, but the disproportionate evidence supports the anthropogenic cause of global warming.

Don Gjenseth, Ottawa

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

WHETHER OR NOT some conspiracy was involved, there are still many unanswered questions central to the 9/11 ("Am I the only one who's seeing this?" *Realist*, Nov. 18). Attempting to point out persons who have raised questions at media conspiracy theories does a disservice to those national people who simply want answers. It reminds me of a few decades back when anyone expressing environmentalist views was branded a "tree hugger."

John Thomas, Norfolk, N.S.

SCOTT FRISCHMAN raises the message. The phenomenon of conspiracy theories is a conspiracy launched by conspirators intent on undermining the credibility of those real conspirators who hold THE KEYS TO THIS TRUTH.

Prof. Douglas Bland, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

THE WRONG FALL GUY

IT SEEMS that whenever there is a serious or critical downturn, everyone is looking for someone or something to blame ("Fat guy," *National*, Dec. 7). Colby Coote blames the public sector—although the public sector is not the cause of this recession. This is apples-and-oranges logic. This recession was caused by greed. Coote should put the blame squarely on the shoulders of the "fat" in the corporations and the U.S. banks.

Christopher Elliott, Kansas, Ont.

AN ELLERY COOTE wonders if there will be a "bloody uprising against the spengler?" Must police officer completely avoid being better

the recession and are now, due to the recession, seeing the wisdom of their choice. In the meantime, we accept lower salaries and the public's incoherence toward public services.

Ken Mills, Ottawa

TAKE A BOW, MR. PRESIDENT

FORMER vice president Dick Cheney, who aligned to President Obama's bid to Enforce Al Qaeda's ("Not time, a fair bang with coffee," *Newsweek*, Dec. 7), should read up on the role of the bow in the social customs of Japan. Whether by instinct or coach



THE CASE of Afghan detainees should not be dealt with by the military and oversteering

ing, President Obama has won right on the money not the half right angle how of an inferior, nor the cut not of a superior, but a bow of an angle that showed courtesy respect to a white-painted personage while retaining such one status and dignity. That kind of consideration and awareness will do much for the Japanese-American alliance.

Walter Sullivan, Merriville, Ont.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

JAMIE J. WEINMAN asks, in the aftermath of his article "Franchise blackout" (*TV*, Dec. 7): "Where did all the major network shows about black families go?" My question is where did all of the black celebrities in America go? Oh, right, they never saw any Brian McKnight, Toronto.

DETAINEE DEBATE

ONE HAS TO WONDER at the media's insistence the Harper government is putting itself through to pull the wool over the eyes of the Canadian public ("Where the hell the Tories would lead," *National*, Dec. 7). Their tactics don't have been to call into question the credibility of Richard Cohen and to use similar documents that are heavily redacted for you unless. If the government doesn't

believe Cohen, let it produce all pertinent documents to show his error. This is not a political move to be dealt with by the public and oversteering. It is a moral issue that concerns every Canadian who expects their government to live up to the standards we have been so proud of until recently.

Royce Alcock, Strathroy, Ont.

THEIR is no feasible solution to the handling of Afghan POWs that does not involve some significant cost to some power to Afghan authorities. Our alternative solution is to first hold



THE CASE of Afghan detainees should not be dealt with by the military and oversteering

them on a humane POW camp that's built, financed and manned by Canadians. But what happens when you finally must release the POWs without returning them to Afghanistan? Short of making them Canadian landed immigrants, we would have to find or bribe some other country to take them on the clear grounds they never go to Afghanistan or Canada. One does not expect foolish politicians to comprehend these things.

Alexander McKay, Calgary

MONKEY SENSE

PETER MCGILLIGAN asks, "Parker, any other article 'What Canadians really believe' (*Society*, Nov. 30), sets examples of shenanigans forced among rhinos' handlers. They may be at a higher evolutionary level than we humans because they have evolved producing Ph. D.s and rely more on common sense."

Jim Schenck, Surrey, Ont.

We welcome readers to submit letters to either *Letters* or *Readers' Mail* to *Maclean's*, 1145 Hwy. 404, Unit 100, Mississauga, Ont. L4V 1R7. Please supply your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters should be less than 300 words, and may be edited for space, style and clarity.



THIS WEEK

Good news

The correct verdict The family of the late Robert Dickie has won the same success in a scathing report from the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP, which concluded that the Mounties who Tased him, leading to his death, acted inappropriately. "I found that the conduct of the responding members fell short of the expected... of the RCMP," wrote commission head Paul Kennedy. We are still left wondering why it took two years to reach this conclusion that seems Canadian and instead the first time they saw the relevant answer video on the Oct. 14, 2007, incident at Vancouver International Airport. Four RCMP officers involved acted with civility and bravery, leading to the death of an innocent man.

What swine fly?

Really, most interesting news about the swine fly pandemic. The number of confirmed cases in Canada appears to have peaked, and demand for the H1N1 flu shot is so low that some cities, including Toronto and Winnipeg, are shutting down public clinics. After a sharp start to Canada's anti-vaccination program—and countless horror stories about dry-long lines as if the shot changed into insulin after an infection effort may have been effective. Then again, maybe we just got lucky. A new U.S. study has found that the H1N1 strain is much less severe than originally thought.

A coffee a day...

Great news for all you coffee lovers—made and for sale. A new U.S. study found that a cup of joe may slash a man's risk of prostate cancer by up to 60 per cent,

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF GRAEME McDOWELL

The tabloid star's only cash profit from the Tiger Woods scandal. When the planet's best golfer (and allegedly worst husband) dropped out of the Chevron World Challenge, McDowell was offered his spot as last-minute replacement. The Irishman, who was in China when the phone call came in, jumped on a plane to California—and proceeded to play some amazing golf. He finished second, pocketed the fastest cheque of his career, and shot up to 18th in the world rankings.

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The correct verdict

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Great gall of China

As publicists gush over her book, *Stranding* is the same name as Stephen Harper, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao surely realized that it had been five years since a Canadian prime minister visited Beijing—"too long a time," in his opinion. Harper, of course, has been busy with China since taking office, refusing to ignore human rights abuses in the name of trade. But Jiabao's rebuke was both petty and counterproductive. Harper travelled to China to

Bad news

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keep his slipping periodically into Afghanistan. But Defense Secretary Bill Gates was less certain, saying the U.S. has lacked reliable intelligence on her. Leaders for a long time. "I think it has been years," he said. "I too had Obama wasn't finding around with Tiger Woods. The papers would have found him by now."

No cameras, please

Speaking of real-life photographs, Queen Elizabeth has written a stern note to her son's tabloid, threatening legal action if they continue to snap shots of the royal family while they're "off duty." According to *Reichsbanner*, the "letter was sent to various associates to ensure that the royal family being harassed by the press and the Queen's private property." The actual content of the letter is unknown. It was marked "private and not for publication." Just an asterisk when it says, don't expect. Her direct to stand down. They may be careless, but the paparazzi are right about one thing: you're royalty, there is no such thing as "off duty."

FACE OF THE WEEK



CASUALTY OF WAR: Victoria Chant, 5, at the funeral of her father, Brian Chant, a British warplane pilot killed in Afghanistan

Cellphone service

Welcome to the digital world, New Denver, B.C. The tiny village (pop. 400) has been bailed to ban cellphone provider T-Mobile from providing its connectivity. Some residents don't want the company to be a "corporate bully" and complained that installing a phone transmitter would ruin the town's charm. New Denver's become very of life. Victoria Canada diagnosed and gave T-Mobile the go-ahead—which is good news for all New Denvers who do want cell service, as for the town's residents, too. As for the fading town to sign up for a three-year plan.

Osama bin hiding

An estimated 30,000 U.S. troops are preparing to touch down in Afghanistan, all part of Barack Obama's "surge" strategy. He's hoping one of those American battle scars Osama bin Laden. Eight years after 9/11, the search for the world's most wanted man is on. U.S. National Security Advisor James Jones said this week that the White House has been fighting years. Bin Laden is probably hiding in the lawless outskirts of western Pakistan, and

Say it ain't so, Roy

At press time, Roy Holmberg was still a Toronto Blue Jay. But as trade rumors continue to swirl, it now seems certain that the face of Canada's baseball franchise—and arguably the best player at the game (only he has pitched at last game as a Toronto amateur. If that proves true, we wish Dec. 22 instead of the best. During his 22 seasons as a Blue Jay, he collected 146 wins, 111 strikeouts, and was Cy Young award. What he wants now is a chance to pitch in the playoffs, and he deserves it. But please, Roy, give your firm one last favour: don't sign with the Yankees. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY FAYERS
TOP: PHOTOFEST/GETTY IMAGES



ABBOTT NEEDS to be photographed in Spanish and called PM Kevin Rudd a 'foam beer'

Harper's model from down under



PAUL WELLS

vented 42-41 to strip him of the top job and give it to Tony Abbott instead.

That made a few well-timed Conservatives run here in North America peak up. Recall that in Australia summer is winter and the Liberal party is home to the country's conservatives. (The main party they face, the left-leaning government, is formed by Labor under the blandly cautious Kevin Rudd.) John Howard's 1996 Liberal election victory was one of the models for Stephen Harper's Canadian election win a decade later.

Tony Abbott's sudden rise is no guarantee of anything. His party is still well behind Rudd's in the polls. But the kind of guy Tony Abbott also was in his situation of people close to Harper:

"He combines Stockwell Day's religiosity and athleticism with Stephen Harper's ideology and intellect," one *Canadiana* Conservative said in an e-mail.

Abbott won the Liberal leadership by opening a big gap between his party and Labor when his predecessor lost weight second on a big meat, climate change. Rudd won the 2007 election by propounding an emissions

cap and trade scheme. The aging Howard, desperate to appease big and medium, supported Rudd's idea, but the younger man was more credible on the issue and the left was the day. Other short-lived Liberal leaders have followed suit. Turnbull, the guy Abbott shadowed in the caucus vote, remains a staunch supporter of cap and trade.

But Abbott has never shed away from the politics of division. If he's a kind of Stockwell Day and Stephen Harper, it's the Day side power first. A young, scrapping, 33-year-old bush farmer and farmer's son who attended Catholic secondary school to a monk, he's sometimes called the "Mad Monk." In the '80s, he served as director of *Academics for a Canadian National Movement* where his country's constitutional debate over getting rid of the British crown was having up.

It's hard of showing up at the beach, within sight of news cameras, in teeny Speedo bathing suits—“lodge struggles” in the local parlance. When he became his party's third leader since in 2007 defeat, he cheerfully shared with reporters his daughter's opinion that he is nothing but a “gay, lame, electric laser.”

And yet. He may be a sensation with a fondness for swimming, but he was also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford (a decade after Michael Spence from the same house). He served in three cabinet posts in the Howard government.

Abbott refused Harper's fondness for sharp

seeing differences as less as often as he chooses to blow them. He's called Rudd “a teacher,” and, in October, he labeled the prime minister's climate change global warming “absolute crap.”

He likes to call Rudd's cap and trade scheme “a great big new tax on everything.” With some support from smaller parties, the Liberals have now managed to block passage of cap and trade once in Australia's parliament. Rejected as a key government policy, Rudd is now in a position to call elections a year early. But as of early this week he seemed reluctant to face Abbott too soon.

Abbott, the Mad Monk with the closer full of lodge struggles, knows he's still a long shot to overtake Rudd. A poll taken less than a week after Abbott ousted his predecessor showed he's now nine points higher to be named as respondents' preferred prime minister, while Rudd's score has fallen by five points. But that still leaves Rudd seven ahead at 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

“If we win the election I'll be regarded as a genius,” Abbott told an interviewer. “If we don't win I'll probably be political madkill as some point in time.”

So Tony Abbott will stand or vanish based on both local and international, and he wouldn't be of much concern to you or me, except for that despite his liberal pedigree, Abbott is his country's standard bearer in a new battle between what you could call a new conservatism and a new liberalism. This is a class conflict to its bones, and the masses there—Harper Conservatives here, Abbott Liberals down under—probably don't expect what blood bankers, preferring instead to throw in their lot with the middle and working classes.

In a clash of values between city and suburbia, Abbott appeals to suburbs. He is a former emergency graduate to Rudd while seeking support among community college grads and Australians who work in the skilled trades. It's the same ground Richard Nixon staked out in the 1960s, Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, the ground the U.S. Republicans took but can't yet control in the aftermath of Barack Obama's victory last year.

It's the ground Stephen Harper won on in 2006 and used to expand his base in 2008. The example of Tony Abbott is a warning: some around Harper that confrontation can be smarter than conclusion. That kind of attitude would win a broad coalition of support. But in Canada, about 40 per cent of all you need for a majority. Harper has always preferred models who don't shy from a fight. He has a new model: ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.avalonpress.ca/paulwells

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MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON A BET, THE MP WHO FIXED SCOTT BRISON'S EAR, AND THE SEAL MEAT PRANK

HIS SHAME JACKET

Environment Minister Jim Prentice lost a bet to Transport Minister John Baird when the Queen's Golden Jubilee saw the Viceroy-Cup over the University of Calgary (left). Baird, a Queen's alumna, gave Prentice, who's from Calgary, his original Queen's jacket to wear as a souvenir on the HMJ, Joked Prentice: "The bet was actually that I would go to John Baird's closet and wear anything I wanted. That was the best piece."



THE EAR OPERATION

After doing an interview on CBC's *Nova Scotia MP Scott Brison* got part of an ear surgery stuck in his ear. How to follow Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett, who's a medical doctor, far help Bennett used a paper clip to loosen the piece before taking tweezers to remove it. The two sat right beside each other in the House, where Bennett is known for speaking rather loudly. "She spent all that time damaging my ear," joked Brison, "and now she has saved them."



TOAST AND ROAST

Liberal Sen. Jerry Grafstein held a toast-and-rost goodbye party on the Hill to mark his retirement from the Senate in January. Grafstein was appointed by Pierre Trudeau in 1984. In July 2009, he famously co-organized "Treason Rocks," with headliner the Rolling Stones, to promote Toronto's unapologetically after the SARS outbreak. "Tory Sen. Hugh Segal roared. 'The only thing I'd say about Jerry is there is nothing compelling, inspiring or inspiring about [him] that he's already used about himself.' The people who will be the most and in his industry will be the paper industry, because nobody puts out the order paper longer, multi-page motions with all their Grafstein



JOHN BAIRD (left) with Jim Prentice (left), Scott Brison (middle left), Jerry Grafstein with Sen. Joyce Paterson (middle right), Mac Herb and Anne Lindsay (below), (right) Carolyn Bennett (left), and meet at the Hill screening (right)

When he goes, the order paper will shrink by half." Grafstein lives in the Toronto riding of Canada Centre. Andronicos says the MP, "he's never smiled with just a frown." Sen. says it's a close tie between him and Sen. Dryden in terms of whose home office the perfect sign location, "except Ken only

takes one sign." Get MP Irwin Cotler noted that Grafstein, who serves as co-chair of the Canada-United States Trade Partnership Group, "made a singular contribution to the very important issue of American-Canadian relations. He can walk into any restaurant or a senator's office in the States and they will converse with him in a first name basis

and appreciate him there as we appreciate him here."

THE SEALER AND THE SENATOR

A group of food hunters from Las de la Malherbe were at a Hill screening of the pro-seal documentary *Huque: Le Film* (The Hidden Face of the Seal Hunt) for several ambassadors, many from Europe. After the screening, seal meat was served in the room. Down the hall, MPs and senators were gathered for Sen. Jerry Grafstein's goodbye party, among them Conservative MP Rob Marshall, who told the very vocal anti-seal hunt Sen. Mac Herb "there was some great Alberta beef" in the next room. Before Herb could put anything in his mouth he was approached by the head-boring Anne Lindsay (the senator's answer to Pamela Anderson), who broke the news to him about to eat seal meat. Herb groaned when Lindsay showed him her yakapik. The senator even offered to buy her yakapik. Sen. Sen. Sen. to get her to stop having seals (she told him the lesson is free). At her left, Herb gathered a few pieces of seal meat in a napkin and said he was going to have them tested for bacteria.

ASK DR. MARTIN

Liberal MP Keith Martin is constantly asked, "Do I have HxN?" Martin, a doctor, has to tell them he can't answer the question with out a test. He has recently

noticed that more people on the Hill are staying home when they are ill, something that used to be seen as a sign of politics. "The message has gotten through. You're not allowed to get sick and come to work." M

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa outtakes or to contact Mitchell Raphael, visit mitchellrap.com

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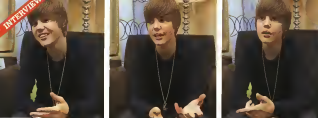
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R & B sensation **Justin Bieber** on Usher and Justin Timberlake, his mom and his fans, and what his swagger coach teaches him

A CONVERSATION WITH NICHOLAS KÖHLER

*At just 15, R & B singer and *Strawberry*, Ont., native Justin Bieber has one hit after the next: *My World*, cover the *Northern Exposure* album, *Chart to No. 1 in Canada*, and crack the *Billboard* Top 10 in the U.S. An only child raised by a single mother, Bieber has seen his life change dramatically over the past year. Once the class clown, he now travels with a tutor and hopes to graduate from the *School Of Young Performers* in New York. With the European leg of a tour opening for Taylor Swift just completed, Bieber spoke to *Maxim's* from on the road in the U.S.*

Q You first started getting attention after you posted clips of yourself rapping on YouTube. Why did you do that?

A: I was in a singing competition and my friends and family thought I was the competition winner to be, so I posted videos on YouTube and sent all my family the links. I really just did it for the friends and family. Then other people started watching it.

Q: What you ever thought the clips might lead to a record deal?

A: Not at all. I wasn't putting it up for that reason, so it wasn't something I was really concerned as. I never thought that it could even happen. I was from Stratford, a town of 5,000, it was something that you just didn't see.

Q: How did it lead to a record deal?

A: I was contacted by many different rec-

ord execs, a lot of different managers and agents. My agent was basically like, "Justin, I don't think this is going to happen, it's not going to work, we don't have a lawyer, we don't have money for a lawyer, and we're not going to sign anything until we don't know what it says." So we ended up just looking at all these people. And this one guy, his name's Scooter [Brown, an Atlanta-based music producer], he was trying to contact my family. He got in contact with my school board, with my great-aunt that I've never met before, and ended up getting in contact with my aunt, who passed the message to my mom. And my mom was like, "Who is this guy?" And then she went and called him to get an address. They ended up having a two-hour conversation. My mom had that gut feeling. I think most people really know when they have their gut feeling. That guy offered to fly us to Atlanta to sit through this. That was basically how it started.

Q: It's well known that Usher and Justin Timberlake ended up fighting over who would sign you. What happened?

A: I was going to a studio in Atlanta to meet some people and Usher was there, he was sitting up at the same time. It was kind of weird, I'd never seen a famous person before. So I sat up to him. I was like, "Usher, Usher, I have your songs, can I sing you a few?" And he said all on the podium possible "yes." Like, "Well, let's go make music. Let's make it sound like you." So I didn't end up going to sing for him. I was a little bit disappointed. Back in Canada I told everybody, "Yeah, I met Usher,"

and they were like, "Yeah, right." I got a call a week later from Scooter who said Usher saw my videos and was like, "This kid's very talented," and ended up flying me back to Atlanta again. So we were like, "Well, let's fly him back to Atlanta, had a meeting with Usher, it went great. He wanted to sign me right then and there. But we'd already scheduled something with Justin Timberlake. Justin and Usher are definitely rivals in the industry. They both wanted to sign me and we basically ended up going with Usher. They were both great guys, but I went down with my last year making the final decision.

Q: Your CD debuted No. 1 in Canada and it's doing very well in the U.S. You've worked with some well-known R & B producers. Do you think that that changes are good or the producers? What accounts for your CD's success?

A: It got to work with a lot of great producers and a lot of great writers. I got to work with [Christopher] "Tricky" Stewart and the Dream, who wrote *Obsessed* by Mariah Carey. The album was just a blast and I think that having so much fun was so focused in the album. I think people love that.

Q: You're involved in a large part because of doing like *YouTube* and Twitter, social networking websites you go to constantly remain in touch with your fans. Did you do that consciously, or is something that you now try hard to keep up?

A: It's something that is very good for my new artist. I think that the Internet is something that keeps your fans involved in the project. They can talk to you, they can write

to you, you're able to interact with your fans, you can keep them up to date, you can put videos on YouTube saying what you are, and it just makes them feel like they're part of the project. It's a new day and age. I think a lot of older artists didn't have the chance to use the Internet and Facebook. It's a great way to bring your fans in.

Q: You have a lot of clips of you at events surrounded by screaming girls. For people who've never been the center of attention like that, what's it like to be there and be you?

A: I think I'm in the right business, I've always loved to be the center of attention. In class I would always be the class clown.

Q: It's not ever clear whether?

A: Of course. It's really hard to be a person to begin with. Then, especially, especially around a crowd. I'm really shy. So I think that's why I'm really shy.

Q: When you're all around me and I can't go anywhere. At the same time, I guess I get to get used to it, you know what I mean?

Q: Recently at a Long Island mall you had a planned appearance and there were these mobs of people there and the police had to get involved. What's it like to trigger that kind of problem?

A: It was crazy. To have 10,000 people show up at a mall signing was definitely crazy. And I really wanted to go up and I showed up and the police wouldn't let me go, they said I was a threat, and basically said, "If you come inside, we're going to arrest you." I didn't think it was fair and we're all trying to make it up to my fans. It was unfortunate.

Q: Recently during a concert in the U.S. you lost your first on stage but finished the song. What was it like to go through that?

A: It was a little bit of a mess. My first on stage broke in the beginning of the song—I was running and there was a little dip in the stage and I rolled my ankle real bad and broke it—so it was definitely a struggle to finish the song. But I really didn't want to let my fans down and they were waiting for me so I had to give it to them.

Q: A few members of your CD have talked about some of the more adult lines in some of the songs—like, "I'm a virgin/when I wake up/ but I'm bigger/ I'm bigger," and about these "no chaperones" in *First Dance*, where you sing, "Girl, I promise I'll be yours." How do you find the right line to reach your fans? Is it if you and your fans are really close, so some of your lyrics are a little bit more adult?

A: Really, you think so? I don't think so. No, I don't think so at all. I think my lyrics are definitely appropriate for my age group. **Q:** Anybody around, what would you like to do with your music?

A: I just want to excel musically, create something new, as well as just my own as a general. But I think that's my ultimate goal with me, that my lyrics will change and they'll be more directed for the older audience. I mean, right now I'm singing to young and old. I'm trying to be totally anybody who wants to listen.

Q: When you were a kid and you were leaving how to sing, who was it that you were trying to emulate?

A: Nobody. I was just singing. I would never try to be like anybody. I definitely had people that I looked up to. I looked up to Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder and Boyz II Men. But I never tried to sound like anybody.

Q: When did you have your first taste as a performer?

A: I don't think that I've succeeded yet. I mean, I have to a certain extent. But this is just the beginning.

Q: It's been reported that you have a "swagger" coach. Can you explain to me what it is?

A: It's pretty simple. It's basically a swing per coach, he kind of teaches me, he helps me just stay swinging. I don't know.

Q: What is it to be a swagger?

A: You don't know? I mean, it swaggers. It's just a style. I don't know how else to put it. It's swaggy. It's a word.

Q: You heard that you were going to be the pretty boy in *Strawberry*. What was your childhood like?

A: I mean, some people have it mistaken around. I wasn't poor. I definitely didn't think of myself as not having a lot of money. But I definitely did not have a lot of money. I couldn't afford to get a lot of new clothes a lot of times. But I had a good over my head. I was very fortunate. I had my grandparents, I saw them a lot, they were very kind. So I grew up getting everything that I wanted.

Q: How have your friends reacted to what has happened to you so far?

A: My friends are very supportive. I have two really close friends—Ryan and Chris. They're really close to me.

Q: The thank yous and Chaz in the liner notes to your new song EP for "helping me stay positive." How do they do that?

A: They're very happy for me but they really don't care about any of this. They like me for me. When I'm hanging out and I say something stupid or something, they're not going to treat me like I'm a superstar, by any means. They're not going to treat me like I'm bigger than everybody else. They're just going to treat me like Justin. They're just going to pop me in the head and not care. I got to be them at least once a month. I got to be them to see what it's like. I've flown them out to L.A. and Atlanta. I think it's really

important to just have your close friends around you. We're very active, we play basketball and hockey and soccer and stuff. We go to the movies with girls and stuff. We're really close.

Q: You don't live in Stratford anymore—I gather you live in Atlanta.

A: I have a house in Stratford and I got a house in Atlanta but I don't really live anywhere. I live on the road. I've ended the living in one house, traveling so much. My day changes every day—some days I'm done doing things, other days I'm doing nothing. But I usually work all day.

Q: Are there things about Stratford that you miss now?

A: Of course. I miss my family, I miss my friends. I miss the city itself, which is very pretty and beautiful because it's really all I've ever known. But it's more my friends and



"I don't think I've succeeded yet. I mean, I have to a certain extent. This is just the beginning."

family. I could go without the city. It doesn't really matter where I am as long as I have family and friends close to me. It's really all that matters.

Q: You also mentioned in the liner notes to your CD about your mother, that you might want to buy her a house. Have you managed to do that yet?

A: Of course, I definitely want to buy my mom a house, but I got enough money. I think that's definitely something that I want to do. I think that any person, it's their dream to buy their mother a house. Don't you? **W**



THE COLOSSAL POISS: The oil spill, our policy on Kyoto, and our disgusting style have won us a bad name leading up to Copenhagen

SUDDENLY THE WORLD HATES CANADA

REPORT BY OT CLIMATE CHANGE

How did a country with two per cent of the world's emissions turn global villain?

BY JONATHAN GATEROSEN • For decades, Canada has taken pride in punching above its weight on the international stage. Now it appears we're the ones absorbing the body blow. As scientists, activists, diplomats, and political leaders gather in Copenhagen for the United Nations' 15th convention on climate change, Dec. 7 to Dec. 18, the northern hemisphere's "helpful hater" is undergoing a radical—and unfortunately negative—image makeover. Canada "is now to climate what Japan was to whaling," George Monrobo, a columnist for the U.K.'s *Guardian* newspaper, thundered last last month, citing the Harper government's go slow negotiating stance as "the major" obstacle to a new global agreement on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. "Until now I believed that the nation that has done the most to subvert a new climate change agreement was the United States," wrote Mon-

robo, a green campaigner and bestselling author. "I was wrong. The real villain is Canada."

And he's not alone in this opinion. At a UN climate conference in Bangkok in October, delegates from developing countries walked out of a negotiating session (on nature, say) environmental groups who were at the meeting, too. And in October, Canadian Michael Martin, our ambassador for climate change, to present Canada's suggestion that the Kyoto Protocol—the basis for the Copenhagen negotiations—be replaced with an entirely new agreement. In early November, at another UN meeting in Barcelona, Canada was criticised "fossil of the World" by the 470 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in attendance for its efforts to "block or stall" climate negotiations. "It's the price for behaving arrogantly, capable, tough negotiator at the table who's being singled out," Environment Minister Jim Prentice said at the time, "when he's at the table."

During the Commonwealth summit in Trinidad and Tobago at the end of November, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon publicly called for Canada to pick up the pace of negotiations and adopt "ambitious" greenhouse gas reduction targets. And a coalition of scientists and NGOs asked the 53 nations

body to suspend Canada's membership—a possible event that is the first has been raised out to such major states in Zimbabwe and apartheid-era South Africa—for "threatening the lives of millions of people in developing countries" through its inaction on climate change. "Canada is effectively negotiating in bad faith, undermining the whole agreement," says International Hogg, a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who joined at the suspension call. "At least everyone else is trying to reach their Kyoto targets. Canada is doing absolutely nothing."

The question is how accurate that accusation is for about two per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (China and the United States are collectively responsible for around 16 per cent) has come to take such a disproportionate share of the blame. The answer is a mixture of politics, bad timing, and—if Canada's critics are to be believed—idiot intentions.

WHEN JEAN CHRISTIAN LEBLANC, Liberal government, signed the Kyoto Protocol in April 1998, after years of international negotiations, there was significant doubt about whether the treaty would ever actually come into force. Although 187 countries are party to the deal,

Kyoto only called for a few dozen developed nations to cut their emissions, and wasn't legally binding until countries representing 55 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions as of 1990 gave it political ratification. (That occurred in December 2005 after the British Democrats' surprise endorsement.) Even then, Canada's agreed target—a six per cent GHG reduction from 1990 levels by 2010—was based on another assumption: that the United States would at least try to move toward its own eight per cent reduction target, even if Congress failed to ratify the deal. But George W. Bush beat Al Gore in the 2000 election, and the issue of global warming went into a political deep freeze in the U.S.

John Dushnake, one of Canada's Kyoto negotiators, now director of climate change and energy for the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Ottawa, says the scribble thing for the Liberals to do at that point was return to the table and ask for a break. Instead, Chretien pushed ahead, having Parliament ratify the treaty in December 2002, burnishing his own legacy, and leaving it to his successor, Paul Martin, to try to fix it. We had how to live up to the commitment. "The Liberals do deserve some share of the

blame," says Dushnake. "It started with them trying to find loopholes—undermining the integrity of the treaty—rather than taking concrete action to reach our target."

When Stephen Harper's Conservatives took power in January 2006, they followed through on a campaign promise to let Kyoto go. Canada's Kyoto obligations. Instead, the Tories have since pledged to reduce Canada's GHG emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 levels by 2020 (effectively half of what we promised under Kyoto, eight years later), leaving the details in limbo until the Americans flesh out their own climate change plans. The new target falls far short of the 20-40 per cent reduction from 1990 levels that scientists say rich industrial countries must achieve by 2020. If the world is to limit warming to just 2°C and avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. And many in the world community have expressed displeasure at Canada's road to goals. But what appears to have really put Canada out of joint in the aggressive race this country has continued to play in the negotiations over Kyoto's next phase.

Time and again, Canada has seemed to find itself at odds with the international consensus around the negotiating table. At a Con-

ference with meeting in Uganda in the fall of 2005, the Harper government blocked a resolution calling for a "binding commitment" on developed countries to reduce their emissions. (The Prime Minister said his government's view was that all nations, including emerging economic powerhouses like India, needed firm targets.) At the UN meetings in Poznan, Poland, in 2008, Canada spiked language about "aggregate targets" for the biggest emitters, as well as references to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In Bangkok in October the Canadian delegation insisted that Kyoto-plus should also adopt 2006 as an optional base year—a change that would wipe out any obligation to deal with the country's 26 per cent rise in GHG emissions since 1990. In Barcelona, GHG emissions from how climate change adaptation funds might be used—arguing they should not compensate nations for "loss and damage" due to impacts like rising sea levels. Now widely seen as a preposterous objective, Canada has become an awkward at climate conferences as a slink at a garden party.

M. J. Mac, a climate negotiator for Micronesia and the 17-member Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), is blunt when asked

about her experiences with the Canadian delegation. "They're certainly polite, but in terms of substance, it's like they're thumbing their nose at the process," she says from Copenhagen. "And as we've gotten closer to putting numbers on the table, I think Canada has become more problematic." Mace describes the process of building a UN-style consensus on climate change as painstaking. But as many see the struggle to move past from point A to point B, Canada is frequently described as a detour to the margins of the thing. "They have a lot of creative ideas that lead to creative detours."

The detour from Canada's traditional role as a bridge-builder at international gatherings has not gone unnoticed. "Those who observe Canada's position and tactics definitely agree that we're not a constructive force," says David Marshall, a policy analyst with the David Suzuki Foundation's climate change program. "And Canada is an important enough player that you can't just avoid things they object to." The finger pointing and name-calling at Copenhagen gets underway as real-time public exposure of frustration that have been building for years behind closed doors. Marshall says that among NGOs, Canada's climate change reputation has been in the toilet for at least two years. "At the 2007 meeting in Bali, we told the U.S. for 'Soul of the day' awards. But at every meeting since then, Canada has been the runaway winner. The 'Colonial Fossil'."

CANADA'S ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTER Jim Prentice doesn't seem too rattled by the growing criticism of his government's record. In an interview shortly before he joined off to Denmark, he said such concerns aren't much in the Canadian mind, nor the minds of other players at the climate change summit. "I can tell you that we're at the table," he says constructively and we're active," said Prentice. "Not everyone always agrees with our positions, but we're there to put Canada's best interests forward, and we're doing that." Canada has been "forward" in negotiations, but never obstructive. "We've been quite open to our view that the Kyoto Protocol is not working, but through it all we have been focused on achieving a new agreement," said Prentice, citing progress that 97 per cent of emissions growth is coming from areas far from developing nations outside the original deal, like China and India.

Canada does recognize the need to reduce its own emissions rapidly, added the environment minister, but such significant economic changes can't be made overnight. "It's every thing from the kind of cars we drive to how we produce electricity, so our consumption patterns and everything in between."

And for those who clearly hope that the bad publicity will force Stephen Harper into a grand gesture at the summit, Prentice had a message: don't hold your breath. Canada's targets are firm, and Prentice, and the details of its climate change plan will be made public at the appropriate time—when it is clear what steps the other nations will take—and as he said, rather than focus on global figures, "I know they're upset about Canada's role, but Canada is not the issue at the Copenhagen summit. It's the issue of the global climate change plan."

But if such a deal—either a political framework, or a legally binding treaty—does emerge in Denmark, will Canada find itself as the wrong side of the table? For the U.S., a Pew Center on Global Climate Change report ranking the commitments of developed nations, topped Canada as among the laggards. Japan has pledged to cut its emissions 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, Russia has done the same. The European Union target at 20 to 30 per cent. Even the current U.S. pledge is a 17 per cent cut out from 2005 levels by 2020—look to be more progressive than what we have promised so far, especially since the U.S. currently has the lowest fuel efficiency standards of any country and energy initiatives are silent on nuclear, which add up to a 25 to 34 per cent GHG reduction, according to another Washington think tank. (The U.S. is also promising an 81 per cent cut by 2050.) Canada's target is "46 to 70" per cent of 2005 levels by the same year. And the sign leading into the summit set this the developing world is also going on board. The Brazilian government has indicated that it will be bringing proposals for reductions of 18 to 42 per cent of current levels by 2020 to Copenhagen. China has announced a goal of cutting the intensity of its carbon emissions 40 to 45 per cent by 2020, from 2005 levels. (That target would mean slower emissions growth, but could see China's GHG output double. China has ordered an intensity reduction of 18 to 25 percent by 2020 [which still might result in a 30 to 55 per cent increase in carbon emissions].)

Miguel Loversa, a member of Paragroup's negotiating team in Copenhagen, says he has been puzzled by Canada's posture over the last few years. "We would have expected a much more cooperative role from them in solving the global problem," Canada, he notes, is among the world's top GHG emitters (roughly, per capita) [right], and cumulatively over the past century and a half (2008). Loversa says Canada's negotiating posture—like using 2006 rather than 1990 as the base year—seems to be motivated by a desire to protect Alberta's oil

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A GREENPACER INITIATIVE, the issue for the summit, says Jim Prentice, is getting to be pretty the U.S. and China will sign



‘THEY’RE POLITE, BUHEY THUMB THEIR NOSE AT THE PROCESS,’ A NEGOTIATOR SAYS ABOUT THE CANADIANS

and development, rather than the planet. "How come the rest of the world is trying to reduce emissions, especially on fossil fuel production, and Canada has these plans to drastically expand the use of oil sands?" he asks. "That's really difficult to grasp." (Paragroup's GHG target is contingent on Copenhagen's 40 per cent reduction from 1990 levels by 2020, and a 95 per cent reduction by 2050.)

In fact, for all the lip service about Canada's cold climate, says environmentalist and energy-worrier Loversa, the reality is that going forward with the oil sands will be one of our biggest problems. A 2008 Environment Canada report estimated that GHG emissions from the oil sands will double between 2006 and 2020, making it "the largest single contributor to Canada's carbon footprint emissions growth." That would make one energy project in one province responsible for 95 per

cent of the country's projected increase in industrial emissions over that period. In other words, whatever benefits from Canada's own internationally agreed pledge to reduce its GHG output by 20 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 (the most ambitious target in North America) is nullified by Alberta's goal of simply stabilizing emissions by 2020, a 58 per cent increase from 1990 levels.

Canada argues, quite rightly, that the oil sands have become an engine of economic prosperity for the entire country, and a vital source of income every citizen enjoys. But the government's aggressive efforts to protect our national interests, at perhaps the expense of global progress on climate change, doesn't seem a lot of sympathy. Earlier this fall, Repulse Pictures, the head of the IPCC, suggested that Canada take some out on the oil sands, until carbon capture and storage

techniques ramp up to rapidly reducing emissions. And international campaigns against Alberta's "dirty oil" are picking up steam. Now there's real danger that the oil sands project could join the oil bust and the logging of old-growth forests as one of the main signs of perceived environmental indifference.

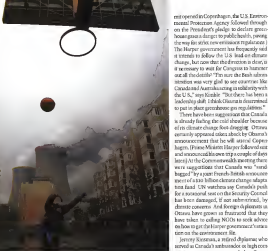
"Canada is going to have no excuse to think about what they're doing in the oil sands," says Mirinda Kimble, a U.S. climate change negotiator during the Clinton years, now senior vice president of the United Nations Foundation, a charity that backs the world body's mission. "Everyone at the table has national interests." Kimble says this doesn't mean Canada's role at the Kyoto talks—"everybody and constructive work"—and its behaviour now is all the more surprising given the fact about the U.S. thinking on climate change since Barack Obama took office. (As the sun

set opened in Copenhagen, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency followed through on the President's pledge to declare greenhouse gas a danger to public health, paving the way for strict new emissions regulations.) The Harper government has frequently said it intends to follow the U.S. lead on climate change, but now that the direction is clear, it is necessary to wait for Congress to hammer out all the details. "I'm sure the Bush administration was very glad to see our work," Kimble says. "But there has been a leadership shift. I think Obama is determined to put in place greenhouse gas regulations."

There have been suggestions that Canada is already facing the cold shoulder because of its climate change foot-dragging. Ottawa's recently appeared sideshock by Obama's announcement that he will attend Copenhagen, (Prime Minister Harper followed suit and announced his own trip a couple of days later.) At the Copenhagen meeting there were suggestions that Canada was "sundragged" by a joint French-British announcement of a two billion climate change adaptation fund. UN watchdogs say Canada's push for a national seat at the Security Council has been derailed, if not scuttled, by climate concerns. And foreign diplomats in Ottawa have grown so frustrated that they have taken to calling NGOs to seek advice on how to get the Harper government's attention on the environment file.

Jeremy Krasnow, a retired diplomat who served as Canada's ambassador or high commissioner to 15 countries, including Russia and the United Kingdom, wonders why the government is bothering to stand out with a constructive position. "Canadians are sitting at the table, but they're thumbing their nose at the process," he says. "The reality, he says, is that we're going to have to go to whatever comes out of this. We're going to have to go along with whatever the U.S. agrees." Canada is vulnerable, especially on oil and steel, both in terms of its environmental legacy, and its looming climate change treaty. (Less green credit for carbon sinks like our boreal forests would make Canada's reduction targets even more difficult to achieve.)

Krasnow says a disturbing trend, where a government with a "disaster" for diplomacy has undermined Canada's traditional international role. "There's a general impression that Canada is no longer engaged in the world's affairs, except in Afghanistan," he says. But even then, from a seasoned diplomat's perspective, there is never an excuse for the way Canada has been acting at the climate change table. "In the end, it's your position, it's how you behave," says Krasnow. "Influence is an asset and we've run it down."



The shrimp and the damage done



ANDREW COYNE

As the 18th United Nations Climate Change Conference gets under way in Copenhagen, the pages of what you might call the ideological press are filled with scandalous accounts of the many ways the assembled delegates will be kept in their cooling chairs.

A report in the Sunday *Telegraph* reckons the total number of luncheonettes commissioned for the event "has already broken the 1,200 barrier," while as many as 340 private jets are said to be flying VIPs in and out of the city. An editorial in the *National Post* laments that delegates will be treating themselves "to panko Indian Ocean shrimp, Norwegian salmon and fruits and vegetables from South America, Africa and Southern Europe, all flown in daily to ensure maximum freshness." The columnist George Wiles predicts the delegates' collective carbon footprint, estimated at 41,000 tonnes of CO₂, "will be the only legitimate consequence" of the gathering.

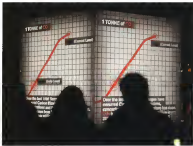
How is a lot of that kind of thing. "That Al Gore, preaching moderation on the net of us, but have you seen the size of his house?" It's supposed to highlight the hypocrisy of global warming activists, but all it really does is remind us of the doctrine's most alarmist assertions. The planet will not be warmed to a warming hell because Al Gore lives in a big house, or because the UN delegates eat too much Norwegian salmon. You can say it's hypocritical, but only if you accept that stopping global warming requires us to abolish lions' exported heads, or large houses, or flying. It doesn't.

In truth, both sides of the global warming debate, the skeptics as much as the activists, share a common interest in exaggerating the stakes: either global warming will destroy the earth, or the effort to prevent it will destroy the economy. That is not what the evidence indicates, on either side.

The most conspicuous attempt to date to estimate the costs to the world economy, both of global warming and of the measures needed to prevent it, is the Stern Review, prepared by the economist Sir Nicholas Stern for the British government in 2006. On Stern's reckoning, a warming of up to three degrees Celsius over the next few decades—Copenhagen aims to hold it to two degrees—would cost between one and three per cent of GDP annually.

Only in some worse warming scenarios, about five degrees or more, does projected cost rise above five per cent of GDP per year. That's not five per cent out of today's economy, or tomorrow's, or next year's. That's five per cent over the next century. A century from now, this, it would not seem, would be five per cent less due to the effects of global warming than it would otherwise be.

Rise in mild, among scenarios whereby climate change, these are generally regarded as overestimates. The economist Richard Tol,



AN ILLUMINATED illustration in Copenhagen shows individual CO₂ production

for example, whose work Stern cites, puts the long-run costs of global warming at closer to one per cent of GDP. "Adequately measured," he writes, "warming as much as twice in a year as climate change would do in a century."

On the costs of preventing climate change, however, the two economists are agreed. Provided countries adopt the most efficient, market-oriented means of reducing carbon emissions—whether via carbon taxes or so-called cap and trade schemes—the costs of holding global warming to two degrees are in the range of one per cent of GDP.

That isn't to say it will be easy—we're talking reductions in carbon emissions by 2020 on the order of 25 to 40 per cent. But neither will require adopting the sort of hair-shirt blather that either the activists or their critics so enjoy. It might mean taking fewer flights. It does not mean giving up flying altogether.

That is, it will require adjustments at the margin. Do I really need to eat the next piece of Norwegian salmon, or could I do without?

Which is where "pricing carbon" comes in. As long as fighting global warming remains a matter of Green-style consciousness-raising and cherry advice columns on how to "Go Green," it isn't a tragedy. Only when it becomes a part of every economic decision, every day—only that is, when people stop thinking about it, will we be on the way to meeting our targets. If that is code simply to tell us that, it is exactly what happens every day with regard to the most fundamental economic problems of scarcity. Rather than calculate the "marginal abatement," as performance "copper audit" on our houses, we just let prices do the job. That's what prices do: they tell us where and when we should consume our way.



AN ILLUMINATED illustration in Copenhagen shows individual CO₂ production

sumptions, without our having to think about it, or incur costs other to follow our example.

What we are facing, then, is less a crisis than a problem. Consider the matter in more exact terms. If you thought there was a 20 per cent chance of global warming costing five per cent of GDP, or a 50 per cent chance of it costing one per cent, then you should be willing to pay up to one per cent of GDP to avoid incurring these costs.

I don't seek to minimize the costs either way. You can, as they say, drown in a pool that is on average a foot deep, global warming can likewise cause some dire results far particular regions or industries. But we're a few hundred times the size of an insect—on either side. ■

ON THE WEB: Follow me Andrew Coyne, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne

Vancouver's drug woes escalate

BY NANCY MACDONALD • Vancouver's hard drugs trade is going underground. A new report, released last month by the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, notes a "100-fold" increase in the use of crack cocaine, and a major increase in the use of crystal methamphetamine by street youth over the past decade. Roughly 90 per cent of adult drug users say they can score cocaine or crack within 10 minutes, while 60 per cent of street youth say they can buy crystal meth in that same time frame. And just in time for the Olympics, 40 per cent say they have injected in public.

The study, a half-century-old look at the epidemic of "hard drug" use in Vancouver, shows that the federal government's anti-drug strategy is "failing," say authors Evan Wood and Thomas Kerr. The key to reducing demand and supply is through a "harm reduction" policy. The authors point to a significant decrease in needle sharing, which has led to a decrease in HIV and hepatitis C infections, thanks to injection sites. The controversial supervised injection facility the federal government has agreed to close (Ottawa is currently opposing a May 2008 B.C. Supreme Court decision that has allowed it to remain open temporarily.)

"How can you call that success?" asked RCMP officer Chuck Dochow, vice-president of the Drug Prevention Network of Canada. Vancouver, with "the worst drug problem in Canada," also has "the most harm reduction programs," he adds. "While harm reduction may work to reduce harm to addicts, it doesn't curb drug use," he says. "What works," he says, is "intervention, enforcement, and getting people off drugs."

Yes, intervention works, says Dr. Brian Goggin, one of the country's foremost experts on AIDS policy, but there aren't enough health beds to treat users. "The problem is if someone walks in today, and wants to get their drug, the waiting time is seven to 10 days," he says. "And injection doctors don't have a lot of drugs, or a stock of drugs, they have a moment of clarity." ■

Ekko: the bedbug-sniffing dog

BY KATH LEHMAN • Meet the team at Soderga, a B & V vet based in Berry Mills, N.S. Masha's dog sniffer and her special bedbug-sniffing dogs are rather impressive. Get ready to be charmed. And so on Ekko, Ekko, a fluffy brown Russell terrier, who specializes in sniffing out bedbugs.

Why offer a bedbug detection service? "There wasn't a lot of demand around here for dog dogs," says owner Andrew Berango, 36, but sales were on the rise, largely because people travel so frequently today, picking up bedbugs on the way (same old, same old: now get up to 50 calls a week). After consulting with local master Bill Green, Berango went looking for an addition to his team, a small dog who could "get behind furniture and stuff around." Enter Ekko, now 3, the Marston's first bedbug-sniffing dog.

Berango taught Ekko himself, obtaining some live bedbugs from a pest control service, and training the dog on their scent. "In my own house, and in my mother-in-law's, around her children." Using a dog offers several advantages, Berango explains while an exterminator might take several hours to inspect a three-bedroom house, and "have the crack started open door, and be in there with his CSI light." Ekko does the job in about 20 minutes—without flipping the furniture. Ekko can even inspect a 300-room hotel, Berango says, in a day and a half.

But dogs aren't the perfect tool: the perfect tool, says Dave Holland of Berango Pet Management Services in Bedford, N.S., who is in himself an "exterminator extraordinaire." Some dogs have trouble reaching out of the way places, like ceilings and curtains, Holland says; and while they can find bugs, they can't get rid of them. Clients have to hire an exterminator for that, which can cost \$250 or so apiece.

As though Ekko's probably never to meet exterminators, Berango—he's in, after all, a working dog firm and fitterment. ■

Burning house on the prairie



Corbin Bertram pictured with Rippling. Book, for his new film

BY NICHOLAS COHEN • A few years ago, when Montreal blogger Rippling MacDonald was famously watching his way through a series of ostensibly significant online suspensions, an attempt to make a red paper clip for his house, the town of Rippling, Sask., population 1,500, got involved. Rippling, 275 km southeast of Regina, happened to have an empty house on hand, and created it with MacDonald. In exchange, the town received an acting dog (MacDonald had retired for their last American actor Corbin Bertram, in exchange for a new K9 now globe).

Bertram, his house for his part in the "We Write L.A. Law, snuffed in Rippling to hold audition for a part in his film, *Down on Demand*. "I was so impressed with the talent I met the mayor I'd love to come back and make a movie," he says. "I guess I must have had a weak moment," the mayor in question, Pat Jackson, recalls. "I said, 'Why doesn't he stop up there?'" The town-owned Rippling Film Productions and began making films in the project to townships, ending 225,000. Bertram now says—Rippling, about a price in the grip of a real-life crisis—with Rippling in mind.

And so last January, Rippling became a film set. Local took up acting parts alongside Bertram, who snuffed and snuff in that. And when the script called for a burning farmhouse, Bertram suggested one particularly creepy abandoned building. It turned out to be the home where convicted child molester Peter Whitmore abused two boys in 2006, one victim raised up for the shock to itself contained in film.

Just happened in Rippling last week. Jackson says the town already has a couple of children's dogs on the table. "Whatever happens, the newspaper MacDonald paid off. The reading policy," he says. "We need not have purchased for nothing." ■



He can inspect a 300-room hotel in a day and a half



Dubai is a financial mess. Who's to blame for the collapse?

BY ANNE KINGSTON • Only yesterday, in *India*, Dubai was the planning jewel of the United Arab Emirates, heralded as the first leaders' Arabian getaway, a true cosmopolitan political model, globalisation in action. Now the majestic fountains that crown Burj Dubai, the Travelled jet chain, and a 10 per cent hike in Cargill de Soléi among its holdings boasts a new place to front: the most over-hyped, over-the-top must-bubble in history. This week, worldwide markets tumbled and first funds of the global economic fallout from Dubai's financial crisis and the dawning realisation that its finances are far more shadowy than ever imagined.

Currently, the government's announced plans to write off as much as it could if interest in debt payments substantially declines is chosen by the rest of the market clearing U.S. Treasury's holding and the first day Monday morning (January 14) Adha has to report it had no credit rating for the month's interest, and was available to investors at \$126.26 billion of its total debt of \$189.5 billion. There is announced that debtors could by its largest of its total issue owned no more, among them holding group Global World and property developer Global, might not have government backing. Global's market portfolio was the UAE, a collection of seven members, with all six of them, didn't start to bid on its second largest member. Some opposition was received when the UAE set up a leading body to ensure Dubai's banks had sufficient capital, and after Abu Dhabi announced

Duba's financial woes were also flagged in October 2008 by a Moody's Investors Service report that saw-owned companies owed at least US\$47 billion, more than the emirate's gross domestic product. Local media is censored, subject to severe fines for publishing anything that might damage Duba's reputation, but stories have been leaking for a year about plummeting real estate val-

banter, some allege that about 25 percent of the world's crane supply, billions flowing into the first "post 9/11" Arab city, ended up playground in the middle of a desert. One of its biggest shareholders was former U.S. Senator Bill Clinton, who called the place a "role-model" for merging Islamic and Western values and customs. In the years after 9/11, Dubai rose meteorically as a modern Middle Eastern country, says Davidson. "Non-conservatives were willing to overlook its dictatorial government on the grounds that it promised an alternative to political Islam."

Also overlooked were the inhospitable conditions suffered on the hundreds of thousands of Indian workers, many from India and Pakistan, imported to construct the place to new-creating effort. Many were placed in squalid, cramped quarters, and some managed to get greasy, but financial success and environmental safety got politicians to do what a full build had the world's biggest shopping mall, and reorganized on offshore islands (the republicans may of the world (but have not notably so). No expense was spared

Now the Dallas dream is kaput. "No big player can do business with Dallas now," says Davidson. "The cost of insuring clubs is too high to make it a legitimate business partner, and that's not likely to change." People vary

It may mean nothing. But given the con- founding financial wreckage that is Dubai, that could be the most ominous indicator yet. ■



about center problems, he says. "So much the run will spread. Still, people at this end say, 'How much more will run?'"

It is a Dubai-centric problem, he says. "So don't think the rat will spread. Still, people will look at this and say, 'How much rain will we need now?'"

Next up on the Dubai debt calendar is Dubai World's payment on a \$3.9 billion Islamic bond held by Nakheel, due Nov. 15. A creditors' meeting is scheduled for Dec. 27. Rothschild Bank & Deloitte have been tapped to help restructure Dubai World with the objective to sell assets, this week, the finance minister announced the process would take more than an month. Dubai is angling to keep its profitable properties among them DP World, the world's largest ports operator, and Dubai, Dubai's shareholding state pump. State-owned Etihad Airways, the Middle East's largest carrier, is

The first casualties of Dubai's bubble boom came from the families in India and the Philippines who depended on money sent from workers, to European banks, across from Standard Chartered, HSBC Holdings, Barclays, and Royal Bank of Scotland, who are estimated to have lost a total of US\$190 billion. Jobs will be lost. Dividend payments to cashless investors have been affected. Only two days after Dubai World mixed for a stay on its debt repayment, Sheikh Mohammed's Woodbrook address spent close to US\$1 million buying night-falls. Last week at auction sales in England, he was unusually frugal. "It's the first time that anybody can remember that we didn't see him buy anything," one broker told the *Financial Times* of London.

It may mean nothing. But given the con- founding financial wreckage that is Dubai, that could be the most ominous indicator yet. ■

MINISTER OF ROCK

Czech Michael Kocáb is part revolutionary, part pop star

BY AMBA PORTER — Michael Kocáb, the Czech Republic's minister for minorities and human rights, has not enjoyed a good year. It should have been 100% after all, but a time of celebration, marking the 50th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution that toppled the Communists—was a revolution in which Kocáb, as a dissident and famous rock musician, played a leading role. Instead, he has been dogged with some of his country's uglier elements. The right extremists have been parading through towns with significant Roma populations, sometimes throwing Molotov cocktails through the windows of a Roma family home in Vratislav, near the Moravian-Silesian border, injuring three people. David Dušek, the influence former Káiz Křezl (Kocáb's grandfather) was invited to give a speech to the Czech Republic in April about the superiority of whites over all others; he was arrested and expelled. The Czech translation of his dreadful book, *My Vrahování*, was published by Prague's Rooking Press.

There have been so many problems, including one where participants marched through the small town of Chrást, led by a priest, to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. As the financial crisis has deepened, the ultra-nationalists have attracted more of the young, who share a sense of frustration and anger. And even as Czechs celebrate 30 years of democracy, the dates are reminiscent of a darker side two decades ago, when dissidents followed the new government's anti-communist measures and the Roma became the scapegoats, with one 17-year-old Roma boy killed in the town of Plzeň, and Ústí and Jablonec eventually enacting a wall between its Roma and non-Roma populations.

Even the Czech media press has become critical of the Roma, who receive transgender benefits, blaming them for using "illegitimate free care," in the words of one commentator, to commit gay crimes and irritate their neighbors. Emigrating to Canada may have seemed like a happy solution to some Roma, but after their year a shortage in the number of Roma seeking asylum provoked the Canadian government to impose new requirements on Czech citizens. Kocáb, meanwhile, has found himself going across the border to support those Roma, but has also accused his fellow federal politicians of marginalizing the minority. In parliament in June, he pro-

posed a declaration against all forms of extremism, signed by the leaders of all parties, the chairs of both the lower and upper houses, and its president Václav Hlaváček.

Kocáb's office is in Václav's Academy, the seat of the Czech government, a massive brick building straddling along the River Vltava in the center of Prague. In its formal entrance foyer there is a marble statue of a

Kocáb told the audience "This nation is at a crossroads. We are more than ever responsible for what happens now."

Then speech had an effect on many, perhaps even Ladislav Adamec, the late Communist-party minister of Czechoslovakia. In November 1989, at the beginning of what came to be known as the Velvet Revolution, Kocáb, by then a high-profile member of



KOCÁB framed the anti-Communist Czech rock band Pražský Byt (Prague Sex Machine)

young girl who is larger than life-size and completely naked, which may account for the fact that the sessions were uncomfortable. The minister was equally uncomfortable in his own office on the second floor. 88th anniversary, he is in his mid 50s, tall and lean-bodied, wearing slim-cut blue jeans and a black jacket over a black shirt.

Until 1982, when his rock band, Pražský Byt ("Prague Sex Machine"), a humorous reference to a cheap Czech wine, was forbidden to perform or record because authorities deemed their music "too socialist," Kocáb had paid some attention to politics. Kocáb did that again that year. When the band came with a live concert show in 1988, he held the opportunity to speak back and from the stage. "Every nation gets the government it deserves,"

Havel's Civic Forum coalition was recommended to the government officials for negotiations. He would enter through a side door, to be led upstairs by one of the prime minister's trusted men. Nothing had been decided yet. But "we were talking about at the handover of government," Kocáb says. "He told thought there was going to be a role for him. There was no one else who could be the Polish noble, that there would be a gradual transition." There would not be, of course, but here was Kocáb, conversing with the head of one of the most powerful regimes in the Soviet bloc, arguing for democracy at a time when "the hard-liners were still arguing rational action against us."

Kocáb also assumed the task of dealing with the army. He was not going to army

headquarters with Václav Klaus, currently the Czech president, to have a some but did not meet with chief of general staff Gen. Miloslav Vlach. The general agreed that troops would not fire on Czech civilians if the leaders of Civic Forum remained there would be no mob-strike against soldiers. Given the long years of oppression and the brutal beating of students just days before in Prague's Students Square, this was a tough demand, but Havel's extraordinary flexibility secured a non-violent revolution.

FAIR FIGHT extremists are targeting the Roma (left), 1989's Velvet Revolution



HE CONVINCED COLLEAGUES TO ERECT A ROMA MEMORIAL BY SINGING A SONG IN PARLIAMENT

into every public gathering, asking my friend, who he would turn up. His dad? "Eventually, the Soviet hosts urged Kocáb to speak instead. "Solidarity and solidarity," he says, "I was standing at the podium where Stalin had once stood, musing history."

Kocáb's first word was "Hello." A sea of severe, impassive faces looked up at him. He imagined every one of them as a hostile, disapproving Lenin. Instead, they were

When did Kocáb realize that the old regime had ended—that they had won? He tells me the story of his 1990 visit to the Kremlin, at the invitation of the Soviet government, as the member of parliament charged with engineering the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia, accompanied by Alexander Dubček, hero of the 1968 Prague Spring, then the speaker of the Czechoslovak parliament. All the way to Moscow, Dubček, the last of the Velvet Revolution, worked on his speech to the Supreme Soviet. The last time he had been in the Kremlin was in August 1965, after Soviet tanks had crushed the reform movement, and he was called on the carpet by the Politburo for his liberal ideas. Since then, he had lost his position as first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist party's central committee, and was seen as a political exile.

Dubček had been preparing this speech for

years, but he felt it was still not perfect. This was probably the only time that a Soviet would have the opportunity for such a speech, and for this Kocáb, who had briefly defied the Soviet Union with his ideals of Communism "with a human face." It was historic moment. Also, when the moment arrived, Dubček was nervous to be heard. "We stood at the microphone to that last ball—we had all seen it on TV. So many years, the very heart of the Soviet empire—and we were here," Kocáb recalls. "I went down the hall, opening doors, looking

a few nervous moments and a plea. The microphone was so terrible that a few of the same had increased trouble. Then, however, Kocáb tried another plea, and the room erupted into laughter.

At the time there were some 500,000 Soviet soldiers in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. One of their top secret weapons and nuclear warheads on Czechoslovakian territory. Shortly thereafter, the facilities had been dismantled and the soldiers had gone home.

At the time of the Moscow trip, Kocáb had been involved with a movie about his band at the state-owned film studios in Prague's Barrandov buildings, which had once belonged to the Third Reich (and would again). Today, the members of the band have changed, the video quality has improved, the venues are more professional, as are the recordings, but the sound is the same. They still fill theaters and bring huge audiences to their feet. Indeed, the minister recently returned from a sold-out gig in Bratislava, now the capital of an independent Slovakia. He shows a video of the band and one of its lead singers, Michael Kocáb, as when pop, black T-shirt, white gloves and trademark dark glasses. He is proving about the stage, wearing his trademark anti-fur gloves and a leather jacket on his upper torso, shaking into the mike in the music stands and the audience has risen to its feet, screaming the words along with the minister of minorities and human rights.

Kocáb says that sometimes a crisis over the years has been a crisis over the years. When earlier that year he asked parliament to vote for a Roma Holocaust memorial, his colleagues remained silent. But that there was a moment of crisis, that was a time for Kocáb, not for any politician that would cost 110 million euros (\$14 million). Unsurprisingly, Kocáb sang then a song about a man who has lost his memory, and all he can remember is one song.

It worked. In May, the government agreed to fund the creation of a memorial at the site of the new Roma Leyva concentration camp. It's expected to open next year. Kocáb, who does not like the "genre of politics," says he took his position because he believes strongly in human rights. Perhaps a number of the horrors the Roma experienced in the past will precede some Canadian re-examine their current prejudices—and advance Kocáb's cause. ■

BRAZIL: CORRUPTION SCANDAL TAKES THE CAKE

Cake has become an unlikely symbol of the fight against corruption in Brazil. Police investigators seized several high-ranking officials' cash, including José Roberto Arruda, the governor of the capital, Brasília, who had insisted that the funds be seized—\$30,000—were election contributions to buy cakes for the poor. Demonstrators stormed the council building, shaking and waving cakes. Arruda is now facing impeachment.



Saddam is back—on TV, at least



A channel celebrating the former dictator debuted on Nov. 28

BY CAMERON ADAMS/FOUR-VIDEO • Saddam TV is on the air. A mysterious television channel dedicated to celebrating former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein made an unexpected debut across the Arabic world last week. The so-called Saddam Channel, launched by al-Lakhi TV, headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, has no social programming, instead, it presents a 24-hour montage of still pictures that show Saddam dressed in uniform, a variety of suits, even straddling a white horse. Accompanying the pictures are recordings of Saddam's speeches and poetic recitals, and a patriotic song paying tribute to "liberation everywhere."

The Saddam channel is shrouded in mystery—nobody knows who is controlling it, or if anyone really is in being broadcast. The Associated Press tracked down a man in Damascus named Mohammed Jarbous, who claims to be running the channel, but he insisted on divulging too many details that it dawns [and] tell us employees." He also denied reports that the channel is being funded by Baathist loyalists, former members of the outlawed Iraqi dominated political party Saddam once led.

Other versions of the station's origins have also surfaced. The man who headed Saddam's defense team at the start of his trial in 2006, Jordanian lawyer Zaid Al-Khawazneh, claims it is supported by wealthy Iraqis in Lebanon, Syria, and other parts of the Arabic world, although he declined to mention who they are. The launch of the Saddam Channel on Nov. 18 coincided with the third anniversary of Saddam's execution, according to the Islamic calendar. Officials in Iraq have labeled the channel "an attempt from the dissolved Baath party to return to Iraq's politics," but are undecided about shutting it down. ■

Soviet-style law returns to Russia

BY MICHAEL PETROU • For years, Russia has been a dangerous place for journalists and human rights activists who probe the murky relationship between government, police and organized crime. Now, mushrooming impunity for businessmen and their associates who do the same.

Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer working for William Browder, CEO of the London-based investment fund Hermitage Capital Management, died last month in Moscow's Butyrki prison, where he had been held for a year without charge. Magnitsky had helped Hermitage reveal an alleged \$230-million tax fraud that implicated Russian police and government officials. Other lawyers hired by Hermitage to investigate the case have also been arrested and severely beaten. Several have fled the country.

Magnitsky, a father of two children, officially died of heart failure. His colleagues say he was kept in a tiny, filthy cell and denied medical treatment in an effort to force him to "confess" to the tax fraud he had uncovered. Russian authorities refused to allow an independent autopsy, but last month announced an investigation into the circumstances of his death. Browder doubts it will accomplish anything.

"Sergei went into prison at the age of 35 as a healthy young man. To the extent that there are cases they want to cover up, we'll never know what really happened," he said in an interview with Maclean's. "The law enforcement organs of Russia have now become infiltrated by organized crime figures. Many have the power to arrest people in Russia use those powers for economic gain. As a result, you have this situation where the richest of people in Russia now are the ones who can arrest people. That's not good, honest government officials and honest businessmen, but even if they're honest, they're afraid of being arrested themselves. You essentially have the state being occupied in important positions by criminals who can run the lives of anyone who stands in their way." ■



Magnitsky died in prison, after being held without charge

In France, mushroom wars rage

BY TOM KESSEFFER • Looking for some French champagne for your chancy crash course classes? Here's some advice: don't get them on French soil—you might end up beaten and bloody, or even dead.

Until recently, property owners in France would generally let their neighbors pick mushrooms for personal use, and anyone could harvest the fungi on public property. But that's been changing since 2006, when a worldwide shortage raised mushroom prices to astronomical, and many hungry gangs started flooding France's forests. They aggressively cut trees of truffles, ripened chanterelles, burning oyster mushrooms and robbing forest owners of estimated hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Whereas casual professional pickers are normally careful to reduce their environmental impact, the gangs damage and grow with rakes, burn forest harvest by parking unattended mushroom carts, and take every truffle they find. The problem is in its economic roots, where people from all over France, Italy and Spain travel to make over \$5,000 a week gathering and selling mushrooms to restaurants on the black market. "Some villages only have the forests for income," says Odile Champagnat, president of the Société Mycologique de Vendée in Angers. "Forests are sometimes ravaged and owners lose the benefits of their produce."

And the gangs aren't peaceful. Spurred by prices of almost \$50 a kilogram, they've been getting into violent fights with landowners, and residents have reported hearing gunshots. To combat the problem, some municipalities are adopting forest management and increasing maximum allowances for daily picking, while many landowners are hiring security guards. The crackdown may prove to be effective against the gangs, but it's also keeping locals out of the woods. "The restrictions are unpleasant—some of our favorite places are now closed to the public," says Champagnat. "Now we find mushrooms around our houses, where we aren't afraid of being our trees slashed." ■



Gangs are selling stolen fungi on the black market



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annual eight per cent during the recession, prices are virtually back to where they were at the peak.

"It is the risk to get into the housing market. Canadians have spent more on traditional savings vehicles like registered retirement savings plans. In fact, until recently Canada could no longer lay claim to being a nation of savers, a once proudly held. A study last year by the Bank Institute of the Family found mortgagees had fallen from \$2,000 a year, or less than three per cent of disposable income, putting Canada well behind

aged 60 and over that are stuck by the value of their houses. The loan doesn't have to be repaid until you die, sell the house, or when it comes to be your primary residence. Nor can the loan ever exceed the value of the house. But the problem is the debt carries higher interest rates than conventional mortgages, and since you don't have to make any payments for such a long period, the loan can quickly explode in size. Over a 30-year period, all the equity in your house could easily vanish, especially if the value of the house declines. As Garth Turner, the former MP and finan-

cial critic notes. No wonder, then, that 28 per cent of Canadian homeowners over the age of 50 plan to sell their houses to fund their retirements, according to a survey by Royal LePage in 2006, when house prices were collapsing rapidly.

It can be a winning strategy for those who have built up a large amount of equity in their homes. For one thing, moving to a smaller house or condo can slash expenses like utilities, maintenance and taxes. Developers have chafed in the huge market potential by targeting retirement affluents, under-tenureds and couples going to retirement, not to mention luxury lifestyle communities all professed on throngs of boomers selling their homes and scaling down.

Yet downsizing isn't straightforward as it seems. "You think that you're going to have all this equity but it doesn't always work out that way," says Fred Bowie, CEO of the Canada Retirement Information Centre, an estate planning firm in Ottawa. Bowie can speak from experience. In the back of his mind, Bowie, 54, always planned to eventually sell his home and move with his wife into a smaller place, using the difference to help fund his retirement. But when the couple sold their house recently, they found they weren't ready to move into a small apartment and instead opted to build a more costly retirement lifestyle bungalow. The lesson is that when it comes to your home, circumventer change, making it unworkable for retirement planning. "Unless you need the money to pay for long-term care, I wouldn't recommend people to rely on it for their retirement," says Bowie. "You'll still need to do that yourself."

Another serious problem is that many Canadians still won't even have finished paying off their houses by the time their retirement arrives. It used to be home owners would stretch and save in order to whittle down their mortgages, even throwing mortgage burning parties to mark their freedom from all that debt. Such parties are almost unheard of now. Lenders have been gradually offering longer terms in mortgages, and borrowers have eagerly snapped them up. The traditional mortgage of 25 years might now stretch to more than three decades. What's more, Canadians have increasingly borrowed against the equity in their homes to finance their life-

styles well before retirement. An estimated 37 per cent of Canadians over the age of 55 still have outstanding mortgages.

Assuming you still plan to use your house as a retirement vehicle, there's something else to think about—you're not alone. Millions of Canadians are all betting on the same strategy, and that could be serious problems down the road. One worry is that the housing of boomers is expected to mean between now and 2030 will drive down the housing market. These may simply not be enough younger buyers

there's no one feeding the market at the bottom, there's no one who can move up and buy your house. Demographics say it all."

Not everyone agrees. Some point out boomers' will not all want to sell their homes, and that the effect will be spread out over nearly two decades, cushioning the impact on any one particular year. "I don't believe there's going to be a tsunami of supply that depresses house prices," says Craig Alexander, deputy chief economist at TD Bank. Others point out that Canada is a popular destination for immigrants and that as aging populations can be replaced by importing

what they get, then you'll have a much supply and you won't be able to sell it for the amount of money that you think you can." And that could come in as a shock to those banking on ever rising prices to finance their retirements.

Whether the housing market slows, or continues to grow at its historical average of around six per cent a year, financial advisers have more reasons to concern the reality of younger Canadians like him to buy high-priced homes while mortgage rates are so low. Daniel Collison, a regional director with Investment Group in Markham, Ont., and an instructor at York University's School of Business, says buyers could be setting themselves up for trouble in the near future. "When you see young professionals making \$100,000 a year with \$700,000 mortgages, they're the ones who are going at risk," he says. The problem isn't just that prices are high, but that even a modest increase in interest rates could send their monthly mortgage payments skyrocketing. For instance, someone who took out a \$700,000 mortgage when variable rates were in low as 2.5 per cent could see their monthly payments of \$1,345 jump nearly \$600 if rates rose to six per cent, and another \$900 if rates rose to eight per cent, where they were earlier this decade. "The shock that's going to hit some of those people is just astounding," says Collison. "There's a lot of critical options about what they can afford to carry."

In short, perhaps it's best to decide early where it is you plan to live—a house, or a house. They're not the same thing. If you're intent on treating your home as part of your retirement portfolio, you have to approach it with more realism: you would any other leveraged investment. But most people don't think that way. Their house is where they live, where they raise families and count memories. So if your home happens to generate some extra cash after your retirement, all the better. But don't overinvest in yourself. "Enjoy your house," says Merrill. "It shouldn't be a stressor." And it shouldn't be the cornerstone of your retirement. ■

HOUSES BUILT IN CANADA HAVE LOWERED MORTGAGES ARE NOW CHECKED TWO DECADES



MANY CANADIANS WON'T EVEN HAVE FINISHED PAYING OFF THEIR HOUSES BY THE TIME THEIR RETIREMENT ARRIVES

other developed countries like France (75 per cent) and Germany (71 per cent). The savings rate has indeed bucked up over the last year as Canadians hunkered down. And Ottawa's introduction of the tax-free savings account, which allows Canadians each year to shelter up to \$5,000 from taxes, has also helped. But with 60 go days remaining to the housing market, few expect the savings rate to climb much higher.

Left to their houses, Canadians have several choices about how to go about retirement: they can live in their homes, but risk coming with potential risks. One increasingly popular option is a reverse mortgage, which gives homeowners access to cash while allowing them to stay in their homes. Reverse mortgage firms, which you can hear advertising hourly on radio and TV, offer loans to people

and another has said, a reverse mortgage "is an ideal strategy if you have your children."

A more obvious route is to just live on the money and downsize. Canadians can't really be sitting on a veritable gold mine with their homes. According to the Canadian Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals, homeowners have built up an estimated \$1.91 trillion in home equity, accounting for more than 72 per cent of the value

CANADIANS HAVE INVESTED IN HOUSES, WHILE SAVINGS HAVE DWINDLED



THE RATE OF HOME OWNERSHIP HAS BEEN RISING, BUT WITH MORE BEING PUMPED INTO HOMEOWNERSHIP, CANADIANS HAVE BEEN SAVING LESS AND LESS

to absorb all those condos and townhouses boomers hope to cash out. For one thing, the net growth in the number of new houses sold in Canada each year is a tiny driver of the traditional real estate machine, is expected to slow from 1.4 per cent in 2007 to 0.6 per cent in 2009. By that year, when all the boomers will have turned 65, it's estimated there will be just two workers for each retiree. "If every baby boomer on the market at retirement time, prices are going to go lower," says Merrill. "The people at the top who are planning to use their houses for retirement are going to face major down-side pressure, because if

even more people float around, theoretically, newcomers could provide a cushion to the housing market as boomers cash out. This challenge then is that, so far, Canada's track record of incorporating immigrants into the economy is weak. A recent study by Statistics Canada found immigrants face a significant pay gap compared to Canadian-born workers. So while T.D. at CIBC doesn't believe there's any housing crash, he does think demographics will slow the growth of house prices in the years to come. "If everybody follows the same strategy, and assumes they'll sell the house and live off



CAUGHT ON A NOT-SO-CANDID CAMERA

Mauro Bellizzi, a one-time employee at a flooring store in Crystal Lake, Ill., is a savvy, unassuming guy. After he recounted a spy saw in the woman's washroom, it went almost immediately viral on a co-worker's blog. Bellizzi's candid quality is a funny change, and now faces up to three years in prison. He didn't have much of a defence—most of the video was of his face looking into the lens while he tried to figure out how to finish the camera



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TIGER'S FALL FROM GLORY

How a car crash exposed the strange and embarrassing life of the world's greatest athlete

BY CHARLIE GILLIS, JOHN INTINI AND ANNE KINGSTON

When Ellis Nordgren began dating Tiger Woods on March 2002, the galling world greeted her as a country-club Cinderella. Sure, the 21-year-old had come from a respectable background—her father a prominent Swedish journalist, her mother a former cabinet minister. But this was Tiger Woods, the crown prince of golf and, famously speaking, the hands-down catch of the century. His winnings and endorsements would soon surpass \$1 billion, making him the most married millionaire in history, his public image as pristine as a TikiTiki fresh from the box. As courtship became engagement, speculation resounded among PGA Tour members and their spouses about whether the upcoming blond who shrank from the public glare was up to the most important role that, in their charmed world, a woman could have: Mrs. Tiger Woods.

Not so Jasper Parvelli, a Swedish golfer as well-known for his candor as his then-boyfriend (now wife). He and his wife, Mia, had employed Nordgren as a nanny during the previous year, and when Jasper's wife brought her into contact with Woods during the 2001 British Open, attracting the young player's attention, he appeared to feel some personal responsibility. "I think she's a bit too good for him," Parvelli admitted, and he seemed to be only half-joking. Nordgren, it later became clear, was worlds removed

from the gossamer four members sometimes refer to as "rose-hoppers." Warm, smart, green and coolly self-possessed, she rebuffed Woods's first advance because he made it through a third party. Another 10 months would pass before they might become engaged, and even then that time was consumed with legalities. "Tiger is the one who got the cash," Mia told *Sports Illustrated*. "With the world lifestyle he leads, he might never have met a nice girl. It's his job he found Ellis."

The Parvellis, it turns out, knew whereof they spoke. In the past two weeks, Woods's reputation as a faithful husband, an epitome of discipline and an upstanding citizen of his sport has blown apart and replaced reports of serial infidelity—reached off last week by a former, low-speed-car crash outside Woods's two-story in Woburn, Mass. As of this writing, most women had been identified as his social partners past and present, and the story carried onward, jettisoned by gossip blogs and the websters of newsmen media. One woman balanced her allegations with phone and text messages showing the 21-year-old superstar frantically trying to cover his tracks. Another recounted her assignments with Woods in college worthy of all in a little school, claiming the golfer repeatedly needed her into the faculty room for rough sex. Woods had gone from unerring the whole world with devotion to seeing a third edition of an unapologetic "straygonism," so, finally,



leaking word he and Nordgren were engaged in "intensive" marriage counseling.

As reports of Woods's messy habits multiplied, those tales looked increasingly like a long shot. The most damning allegation emerged Monday, when two of the women said Woods never used protection when having sex with them, suggesting he had endangered the health of his wife and, by extension, the two children she carried to term. Still, Woods and his handlers seemed determined to rescue the marriage. Late last week, they linked up with a pair of former quarterbacks in the National Football League. Yes, the marriage of Tiger and Liza has been described as a match made in marketing

glue—\$75 million over the next seven years, if the union's operation succeeds, the effort will be to thrust the great partnership of sport and commerce into uncharted territory. The union, it is safe to assume, would be something a lot less like a marriage than one of Woods's endorsement deals—a lifetime contract governed by lawyers, not an affair of love or loyalty or public appearances.

Nordgren, meanwhile, would become another employee of Tiger Woods Inc., while peeling down a salary on par with starting quarterbacks in the National Football League. Yes, the marriage of Tiger and Liza has been described as a match made in marketing

heaven—the perfect synthesis of beauty and accomplishment, a pairing that bridged both continents and a racial divide. But saving a willpower more than a confusion on Oprah's couch, or some flowery about sexual addiction. It will require so much money—and cynical negotiation—one is left to wonder whether it is worth the price.

By the time Woods met Nordgren in 2001, his every public move was carefully scripted, forewarned by his legendary father but who told him not from an early age he was "the Chosen One," but also by his handlers in the sports agency International Management Group

More than a magnificent golfer, he was packaged as the first African American to win a major, a former leader who would shatter WASP hegemony and once again testify to the way for the first black president. Suffice to say, no one wanted a repeat of the disastrous 1997 *Esquire* profile of the year. Woods' career peaked at which the 21-year-old was spotted taking private jets and social jets, then expressing shock that writer Charles Pierce was taking notes. The story shocked at Woods's own spot was sitting on a couch, but without any specifics.

Not that there was a shortage of critics. Woods's head-dogging was one of the worst kept secrets on the PGA Tour. As sports journalists concerned about taking access to the world's best golfer were content to ignore such gossip, just as it chalked up Woods's club-throwing and profane outbursts on the course to his "perfectionism." A tight inner circle provided a protective buffer from the world. Woods fired his first caddy, PGA Tour veteran Mike "Bluff" Cowan, for being too friendly with the press, and began a long-standing relationship with Steve Williams, known to many as an operator who dared disrupt his career. Instead, Woods's persona, as portrayed, was so dull as to be boring. "The blond man is so complete," *Sports Illustrated* wrote of him in the *London Times* in 2002. "There is something apocryphal about it."

One morning, given the foregoing, what Nordgren wanted to know was whether Tiger should have insisted on the first place. "He wanted to take the Derek Jeter approach to his life style, there would have been nothing wrong with that," says Paul Bierbaum, managing director of the University Center for Sports Marketing at the University of Oregon, referring to the emotionally wiggly lawsuit for the New York Yankees. Woods's father Earl certainly opposed the idea, saying he believed marriage would undermine his son's career. "Let's face it, a wife can sometimes be a distraction to a good game of golf," he told *TV Guide* in 2001. "The least I'd do, the least I'd do problems like that would destroy him."

But from a marketing point of view, a blond woman wife and happy family were the only elements missing from Woods's image—ones that would enhance his appeal to men and golf fans to women and kids. For their purposes, Nordgren appeared the perfect partner, a beauty who shared his substance. Friends and family members of friends of attending college and becoming a child psychologist, and she remained an awkward, untalented. But this too played to Woods's volatile product pitchman, adding to his aura of class.

From the beginning, Nordgren played her part impeccably, becoming a fixture on the PGA Tour from 2002 until 2007, when she

proceeds to their daughter Sam. During the game, she walked the line between publicity and privacy with impressive savvy. She never did an interview, and was so guarded with acquaintances they avoided suspicion to guests. Giallo ("She's still nice," one person on the tour was quoted as saying in 2006, "but when you talk to her you don't get anything out of her.") Yet Nordqvist made herself visible enough to please both the viewing audience and Woods's spouses, appearing at tournaments in Nike wear, smiling for the cameras at just the right moments.

Schind the scenes, however, she was not responsible for a scandalous fall and was asked to flee it. Early into their courtship, it was

about the way he handled things," he wrote in a letter to them. The more inhibited, saying it was "naïve" for Woods to think the engagement wouldn't become public.

No surprise, then, that the couple's 2004 nuptials provided a template for their raucous—obsessive privacy-obsessed—laid-back boondoggle. The entire Sandy Lane Golf Resort in Barbados for a week and bought out the island's local paper charter company to deliver papers (and for photos) of the couple taking vows both in 150 guests, among them Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, and Bill Gates. Their honeymoon was spent (reported) aboard Woods's 157-foot yacht *Princess*, ending the Caribbean

pleasing a blizzard known the farthest of their infant son. The reason that would tear apart the household, and bring down the vacation golden era to pack up a club, were not yet in sight to the naked eye.

As they may have remained to had Woods not received his Cadillac Escalade into a fire hydrant and a tree in the early morning of Nov. 27. Through it was initially reported that Woods was in "serious" condition following the single-car crash outside his Florida home, it was later revealed that he only suffered scratches to his face. The official line from the Woods camp was that Eli had

some involving her, Derek Jeter and crew (Woods's US Weekly also released a voice mail left on Grubbs's phone from a man, allegedly Woods, asking her to remove her name from the voice mail message "quietly" because his wife may be calling to check up on him). Kalia Moku, a Vegas marketing manager, who was linked to Woods, also said the allegations are "completely untrue." Details also showed published reports, but raised questions when the candidate press conference last week due to, according to her lawyer, "unforeseen circumstances."

Grubbs is said to have called to offer Tiger and Ellen a place to stay, but he was the last to hear from a couple of posters on his website, including the one in which he speculates on his family and fans for "transparency." Woods has

been involved for last week, the New York Post revealed that it was Lennon who a *discovery* photographer caught with Woods in his SUV in 2007. To preserve Woods's image at that point, a deal was allegedly struck with American Media, which owns the *Enquirer*. In exchange for killing the story, the Post, the golf star agreed to a ceremony with *Men's Fitness*, which also owned by American Media (the company's CEO says the allegations of a cover-up are "absolutely not true").

It must have been difficult, juggling all these things. One week, he was the driving dad, trying time from his calling as history's most wanted athlete to prepare for the arrival of his second child. That this precedence over anything (to go) was "Woods told his army of advisors in a blog posting written last February just days before the birth of his son. Eli and daughter Sam were "very excited for the new baby to arrive," Woods reported, "although that's when the real lack of sleep begins." That same week, Woods was completing rehabilitation from off-season surgery. Yet neither golf nor family, claims Grubbs, had kept him from a planned tryout with team Las Vegas the very weekend his son was born. He called it off at the last minute, she said, citing "family issues."

of the negotiation link text "Why would anyone look positively on a marriage that says nothing at least damage?" says Steven Levitt, president of Marketing Evaluations Inc., a Manhattan, N.Y. based company that manages celebrities' apparel with consumers. "The public isn't that stupid." Eli could do a lot more damage to her husband, he adds, by looking like and saying "I've never done anything." That would have been more than 12 or three weeks in the future.

How badly the scandal will harm the golfer in financial terms remains to be seen. While money stays on a perfectly shaded the price of Tiger Woods action figures, and TV networks financing Woods has not been on prime time TV since Nov. 28, many of the sponsor's sponsors—including Nike and Gatorade—are standing by their man. Gatorade announced this week they are discontinuing the Gatorade Tiger Poca drink, but denied it was a decision made "several months ago." Levitt acknowledges a dramatic shift next year in Woods's US Open—this company's sponsor of celebrity's blazings—reflecting decline in support among female consumers (Michael Jordan is the only athlete to wear higher than Woods in recent years.) Still, Levitt says, the core Tiger brand consumers are male and upper class men who are not "going to give up buying a set of clubs just because Tiger Woods got caught."

Where Woods is likely to suffer the most is in attracting new endorsements, at least for the next couple of years. "Nobody is going to get involved with him who had been a sponsor and said, 'Well, he's probably cheaper now, so why don't we start talking?'" says Levitt. "It's really a matter of what he can earn, not what he can spend." Feller doubts Woods will keep his considerable—albeit, not with one of a million-dollar net worth of his image. "The problem is the shareholders," he explains. "You'll get people wondering, 'You're giving money to this brand just to let him have a role model for young American men?'"

As such, concludes Feller, there doesn't seem much going on trying to contain Woods's audacity. "Based on my experience, this sort of celebrity always continues," he says. "Tiger never stop." The sort of non-confidence Woods had better get used to. By the middle of this week, everyone from friends to late-night comics were condemning him, but the most damning verdict of all came from Jagger Parkers, the golfer who eight years ago had coached his quatern in some quips. "I have lost all respect for him, primarily to a man and a father," Parkers told a Swedish reporter. "It doesn't even feel like a career to me. It has done on the golf course. We thought he was of his, but he is not the one we thought he was." ■

WOODS AT 2008 U.S. OPEN: (top) Woods with daughter Sam and wife, Ellen, at NCAA football game on Nov. 27, 2008. (Middle) Woods from top left) several women allegedly had affairs with Woods: Carl Root, Janine Grubbs, Kalia Moku, Rachel Uchida, Jennie Jungers, Holly Thompson



"WITH HIS WEIRD LIFESTYLE, HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET A NICE GIRL"

rumored) Nordqvist found a Woods paid his school tuition and bought a house for his former long-term girlfriend, Joanna Jagoda after their relationship ended. Nordqvist is said to have issued Woods an ultimatum: stay away from Jagoda or this new, more glamorous one later would return to Scandinavia. Woods, set on marrying Nordqvist, complied.

The burden of the marriage would grow, however, as Woods became richer and raised up more titles. Shortly after they began dating, photos of naked blond women were widely identified as Nordqvist's ex-the blonde ("I told her, 'I'm sorry it has to be this way, but it's the only way to keep what I do,'" Woods told at the time.) And when she died in 2009, Nordqvist's lawyer took over, Woods landed an account, the resort's owner of altering newspapers and turning the owner and local school children to the report, where the couple was forced to pose for photos. "I'm diagnosed

The couple set up residences in a 6,000-sq-foot mansion in Woodmere, and from time to time gossip made it way into the press. It was reported to have "travels" when Woods's mother told Nordqvist he build a house for her next to them, she married the two houses be separated by a stretch of water. And there was no denying the scandalous Nordqvist was ending for Woods's career. In June 2007, while Tiger played the final round of the U.S. Open, the worst time to lose with Sam. There were complications, yet Nordqvist urged Woods to stay in the course, and he wound up finishing second.

Still, the few glimpses the public did get of the couple pointed to a sorrybook case not. Last February, a week after the birth of the couple's second child, Charlie, the family spent a night in a hotel room at home. While Nordqvist looked every bit the weary-yet-loving mother, the star of the spread was Woods, laughing at the family dog. He looked his face,

besides the SUV's window with a golf club to help her husband get out of the car. But there were soon suggestions in the tabloids that the shattered glass may have had more to do with an alleged dispute about a story that appeared a couple of days earlier in the *National Enquirer*, listing Woods with Rachel Uchida, a New York nightclub hostess. (A police report released this week noted that a woman at the crash scene—she periodically his wife—and he'd used prescription drugs. One of them, Ambien, is a sleep aid, the other, Xanax, is a panic disorder drug given to athletes recovering from injury.)

The smash-up set off a media frenzy. US Weekly reported that Jennifer Grubbs, a Vegas cocktail waitress, claimed to have had a 15-month affair with Woods starting in 2007. And Grubbs said she had 300 text messages to prove it. Uchida was said to have an especially embarrassing time from Woods describing a dinner in which he walks in on a three-

married sister-in-law strategy that he only lasted speculation. Caring visitors from the crash, he looked out of last week's Chevron World Challenge. In the days following the accident, Florida Highway Patrol officers were turned away from times when trying to gather information from him. Eventually, Woods was issued a traffic citation for careless driving, and a \$150 fine. No criminal charges were laid. But as far as the celebrity gossip services concerned—and the millions around the world who couldn't help themselves from clicking—the case was far from closed.

In predictable tabloid fashion, the number of women who allegedly bedded Woods swelled to nine by last weekend, and included a porn star, and Mindy Lenzon, who says she's been in an affair with Woods since 2006, claims she has had an affair with Woods in 2006, claims she has had an affair with Woods in 2006, claims she has had an affair with Woods in 2006.

There are no suggestions going on," says New York-based doctor lawyer Rachel Rader, whose clients include Ray Charles, Robin Givens and the former wife of basketball's Patrick Ewing. Woods is an extrovert and his wife is part of that, says Feller, who calls the couple's original press report, reported to give Nordqvist a US\$10 million after 12 years, "unprecedented."

But given the scandal, his haunting and sexual nature of the revelations, the can double who filter the marriage makes sense from a business perspective. Though family has been a major part of Woods's perfectly crafted image from the outset, his core audience, his sponsors, is not interested in Eli as his husband might think. "If you asked the regular consumer two weeks ago what comes to mind when they think about Tiger and family," says Swengard, "they would have talked about his father, not his wife."

These doubts are bound to grow as details

WILSON: JEFFREY MATTI/GETTY IMAGES; GRUBBS: JEFFREY MATTI/GETTY IMAGES; UCHIDA: JEFFREY MATTI/GETTY IMAGES; JUNGERS: JEFFREY MATTI/GETTY IMAGES; THOMPSON: JEFFREY MATTI/GETTY IMAGES



Canada's Olympians: No. 2 of a series



OLYMPIC SKATER, 1ST IN WORLD IN 1999-2000 AND IN 1,500-M. WENT ON TO WIN SILVER MEDAL IN 2002. AGE 24

Christine Nesbitt NO TIME FOR PATIENCE

STORY BY KEVIN MACQUEEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BOLEN

Christine Nesbitt shook down her great expectations in the summer of 2001. She was the new girl on the Canadian luge track speed-demon team, a sport where success usually demands a long, slow apprenticeship. She was juggling geography classes at the University of Calgary, training at the adjoining Olympic Oval and living a proud, if precariously independent, existence on the \$600-a-month she received as a national development team athlete. The Torino Olympics were six months away when she wrote to her parents, Judith and Wayne Nesbitt in London, Ont., with what seemed an audacious set of goals for a 20-year-old. Her father recalls she planned to break into a very deep field of

skaters and qualify for the Olympics in five years' time, when a lot of those skaters would race three kilometers, evolving turns in the eighth or ninth. She also hoped to qualify in the Olympic 1,000-m and 1,500-m races. "It was reaching, on-again-off-again," says Wayne, a geology professor at the University of Western Ontario.

Her parents, though, had long since learned not to underestimate her competitive spirit, her impatience, or her motivation. "She was born independent," says Judith. "True to her goals, Nesbitt qualified in all three events, on any day. Her parents will thrill at the memory of watching her on the tracks in Torino when Nesbitt and the pursuit team won the silver medal. A leg readily Nesbitt with Kristina Groves and Cindy Klassen, who does mixed Torino with a two-man performance, set the Olympic pursuit record. Putting things in perspective, her father says, "Winning the medal, doesn't it?"

Agreeing so. Whether goals to setting personal goals, Nesbitt is a task master. "I'm impatient," she says. "Being impatient is bad, but it's made me become consistent and focused because I didn't want to be good when I'm not. I want to be good now." Even strong results tend to leave her dissatisfied. She'll restore a race video and focus on the flaws. "I think 'How'd I go that fast? Because it looks like crap,'" she says. "Every one has always said I'm hard on myself." Well, and on the competition, too.

Nesbitt started off playing hockey in London, Ont., but grew frustrated by the pace of the game. After practice one day at age 12 she lugged out the red and was struck by the speed and chaos of the short-track speed skating club. She switched sports, and began coming with a crowd. The first time her as a beginner against the youngsters at the college track. "I was like that quest to see how good they are," she says. "I was so close, I thought I'd better beat these little kids." She did, and soon became a nationally ranked skater. In 2001 she started over again, moving to Calgary as a long-track skater, a decision that allowed her to train and attend university.

She says, or blazes, much of her competitive fire from her brother, Doug, who is four years older. "I always wanted to be as good as him, or better than him," she says. "I didn't think being faster or a girl younger than him should affect me. When she's playing on an outdoor track with her brother and his older friends. "I was so close but she was very quick," says Wayne. "The guys would have a challenge on skis catching her."

The competition even extended to video games, Christine admits. "I was watching Mario Brothers and he got a higher score than me, he'd be like—and this is the worst, I read it somewhere, and I still have it—he'd say, 'I'm not a skater.' So, I could never get a rematch," she says with a laugh. Sort of a laugh. Even today she avoids playing board games because she hates to lose, she says. "I think that might come from my brother. He,

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CHRISTINE NESBITT: A LUGING QUEST

Why did you choose speed skating? I used to play hockey. I was getting a bit tired of that and felt like I needed a change. I always enjoyed skating. My parents found out there was a short-track team skating club in London so I gave it a shot. I didn't like it at first, it felt so weird.

If not speed skating, what sport would you choose? I would choose soccer. I would like to play soccer, really hard sport. It looks good and it's exciting to watch. You have to be strong and quick but also have endurance.

Do you have a pre-event ritual? I don't want to have a ritual because if I don't do it and I don't do it that day, maybe I don't want to stop myself. I'd never know if it was something I did in the race instead of just something I prepared for it.

Do you listen to music before a race or while training? I don't listen to music to music training. I used to, but I thought it became more of a distraction and it wouldn't allow me to focus on the things I needed to focus on.

What are your post-Olympic plans? My mom's Australian and I haven't been there for events.

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KING of an alternate WORLD

James Cameron invents a new universe—
and a new kind of filmmaking by BRIAN D. JOHNSON

film

Talking to James Cameron is like watching the gods of myth, coherence, understated precision, as if he has a brain with a laser hard drive that can

remember a whole tape of the entire world about the YouTube video of Adolf Hitler crashing Avatar. A scene ripped from the much-spoiled 2004 film *Das Weisse Fleisch* shows the Hitler as his bunker during the last days of the Third Reich. The German dialogue is subtitled to read: "Hitler was a James Cameron fan who craved that the *Avatar* trailer reads 'I wait 30 years for a F-king Captain Planet with cool!' he screams. 'Cameron has spent two months here underwater. He should have left the camera of *Avatar*! The Last Rain forest to Lucas'."

The speed is just one example of a direct online backlash against *Avatar* that's been raging ever since 15 minutes of Cameron's 3-D opus were previewed last August. First week, the highly anticipated blockbuster will be released worldwide—12 years after Cameron's previous movie *Titanic* became the biggest hit of all time. So you'd expect its creator to be a bit pompous. But when asked about the online abuse, Cameron responds with a shrug and good humor: "The Hitler one cracks me up," he admits during a lengthy phone interview from Los Angeles. "It's hysterical. I want to get a copy of it, but it's on YouTube and I haven't figured out how to download it—I'm not very technical."

James Cameron is not very technical. His *Titanic* did. These days, the 55-year-old Canadian, who studied physics at university, at so much a scientist as a filmmaker that he makes a woman, he's like a one-man room going to war, everything now happens to meet the task. The creation of *Avatar* will take in November 2, he led a revolution in

computer graphics. For *Titanic*, he built deep-sea camera housings to explore the wreck at a depth of four kilometers. And for *Avatar*, he invented a 3-D camera rig and refined performance-capture technology—the digital vessels that let his actors, covered in electrodes, inhabit the body of a blue, six-foot alien with a real and not even on a distant moon called Pandora. But the question a lot of people are asking is, why?

Cameron treats movie-making as a science. With every film, he says that at some point he feels he's at the helm of a sinking ship, and for the third time in his career, he's launching the most expensive movie ever made. *Avatar*'s budget is \$250 million, and with marketing and distribution costs, the final price tag is expected to be close to half a billion dollars. As with *Titanic*, there are deep pockets of doom. But Cameron seems unfazed. "This was worse in the sense that it was all negative may cry out there. I was a little worried about *Avatar* early on because the buzz was all so positive and glowy when nobody had seen a frame of it. I thought there was no way the movie could be anything but a dud because the fans were busy making the movie as their heads. We had no celebration of its inception in August, and now we have controversy, which is good. Controversy can be resolved only by seeing the movie."

Much of the adverse reaction is easily blamed at *Avatar* came from fans who felt Hollywood's most high-wire action director had gone soft. *Avatar* is an anti-adventure show as described on online cultural site *Open Wargaming* who's returned to criticize the blue-skinned Na'vi people of Pandora.

While Julie has lost, her consciousness drives an avatar, a remote-controlled body built from human and alien DNA, that can breathe the Pandoran toxic air. The Na'vi are also about to die who live in harmony with the environment—here's the co-opt—while the human imperialists want to rape for a rare mineral called unobtainium. Julie goes native, falls for a blue babe (Zoe Saldana), and leads the Na'vi in a war against the invaders. Think *Dances With Wolves* in space.

For such a technically sophisticated film—with actors used to their own Na'vi avatars in performance-capture imaging, Cameron's eyes are remarkably old-fashioned—a colossal adventure yarn in the spirit of classics by Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and Edgar Rice Burroughs. "It's the same thing as *Titanic*," he says, "where we were telling a 500-year-old story, *Romeo and Juliet*, set in a 100-year-old environment but using cutting-edge CG [computer graphics]."

It's funny
Oliver Stone
came down
to see what we
were doing. He
didn't get it
at all

When I suggest that *Titanic* became a disaster hit thanks to repeat viewings by girls sent up with Leonardo DiCaprio, it seems to strike a nerve. "I don't buy that argument," says Cameron, sounding like he's heard it over too often. "You can account for maybe \$300 million or \$350 million in repeat 14-year-old girls. But you still have to account for 1.5 billion. With *Titanic*, we stumbled into the combination luck to a universal set of human truths that was utterly universal. It played as well in Afghanistan as it did in Japan, Thailand, Brazil, China. And by the way, it's a male response of 'Warrior' that men didn't go see *Titanic*. There's only one person I've expressed who didn't have an emotional reaction to the movie, and that was



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A facial for your, um, 'other cheeks'

These treatments for 'delicate areas' are big in South Beach, surprisingly also in Saskatoon

BY BEVERICA ECKLER • The body area we talk about the most ("It's getting bigger"), worry about the most ("It's getting bigger") and also use the most (at work, at home, while missing "I need to get off my...") is also the area we neglect the most. I was made aware of this on a recent visit to the Ritz-Carlton in South Beach, where, apparently, the chong bikini never goes out of style, and they offer a spa treatment called the "Divine Deviance," which, the spa notes, "will leave your deviance to be envied by all at the pool and beach."

So what does one do when she learns of a facial for her, um, "other cheeks"? Well, of course, she immediately inquires about it and books an appointment, while trying to keep a straight face.

"You're here for a massage and the Divine Deviance treatment?" a spa employee asks, when I check in. Uh-huh. That's right. Please don't remove this out loud, I think.

Though I shouldn't be embarrassed, in warmer climes throughout North America, bikini for your butt—also sometimes called booty facials—are just another spa treatment. According to Lohana Dominguez-Grapias, the spa director at the Ritz-Carlton, pampering your butt has become the new Brazilian bikini wax. "Out here, just like everyone does the Brazilian, it's more shocking if you don't do it! When the snowbirds come down, we get so many requests for the Divine Deviance. In South Beach, all inhabitants get out the door. People want to expose everything," she explains.

Nor does there need to be any, "Lift you," says Dominguez-Grapias, "most people who haven't heard about the treatment ask, 'Is this what I think it is?'" The Ritz-Carlton

featured the Divine Deviance for nearly two years. "At first, everyone was like, 'Oh, let's see who goes first.' And, now, we don't think twice about it. Think about how many people go to other spas to get surgeries to get nicer fitted butts. This is a non-invasive treatment," though she agrees, one'll be helped giggle. "At first everyone is 'too shy' because they have to say it. But our therapists are professional."

Dominguez-Grapias came up with the name the Divine Deviance. "It's very South Beach, it's fun and elegant. We couldn't use the term ' booty' because in England, that refers to a woman's private parts." The US\$75 treatment, for what Dominguez-Grapias describes as "a very delicate area," lasts 30 minutes, quick enough to be effective and penetrate the skin, but not long enough to start to feel uncomfortable.

It begins with an exfoliation scrub, followed by a cleansing, and then a cool mask is applied. If needed, they'll do corrections. It's similar to a regular facial. "If you work out, or go running and are wearing underwear, you're going to break out in this area. A lot of the time, you don't realize that you have whiteheads, especially in the crease between the butt and the leg. The sweet glands on your deviance get clogged up too, just like your face," says Dominguez-Grapias.



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT... POE'S FIRST BOOK

When Edgar Allan Poe published his first book, *Tales from Edgar Allan Poe's First Book*, in 1827, it barely made a splash. Less than 30 copies were printed, and only 12 sold today, making it one of the rarest books in the world. In fact, Poe's name doesn't even appear on the cover—the author is a "Whisperer." Now, a book-up copy is expected to fetch up to US\$750-800, said Frances Wehlgren of Christie's, who called it the "Black Bull of U.S. Literature."

One of the ingredients in the mask is coffee, which Dominguez-Grapias says is an antioxidant and absorbs into the skin. "The results are immediate. Your skin looks both well and fresh. And it helps with cellulite—you can definitely use a difference if you only have one cheek done," she says.

Amazingly, even in Canada, some people ponder their "delicate area" regularly. "We have clients here too!" says Carolyn Schwab, the owner of Chances Salon & Spa in Saskatoon, where they offer the "Booty Facial." Her response, "Your backside doesn't always have to be left behind." Not only does her treatment include a cleanse, mask and exfoliation, customers can add microdermabrasion to their treatment.

"I first read about them in a spa magazine. I was so excited. I couldn't wait to offer them here. At first everyone was like, 'What is going on? get that? And I was like, 'They're not.' And I was right," says Schwab, who has been in the business for three decades. "We always get a positive response. It's so good and treats the skin. And it's totally relaxing. No one likes to talk about it, but everyone is doing it." And the masses everyone.

And the Ritz-Carlton, the treatment is not exclusively for women. Both spas receive requests from men. At the Ritz, almost 50 per cent of requests, in fact, come from male clients. "Men," laughs Dominguez-Grapias, "I think are even more self-conscious of their deviance than women." ■

MAC GIVE.

FOR A SELECT FEW, GIFT-GIVING HAS ITS ISSUES



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MACLEAN'S
MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL.



Hans Christian Andersen would surely have been inspired by the 'science' of Copenhagen

MARIL
STEVENS

But, there appeared in the European press the news that Danish prelates had supposedly offered their services for free in the water-immersion at the Copenhagen center. Most of us dismissed the story as a made-up par because, while a generous gift, it seemed unlikely to be taken up. For one thing, it's far harder to "bade the deacon" when you're in a Danish bawle than at the Climate Research Unit. For another, you have to pay extra if you want a second gift to make in and "peer-serve" your subordinates.

Also, while Andrew Revell, the Senior Climate Editor of the *New York Times*, made one bite of Mørst, posing questions of the free sex offer, eschewing the leaden Steyn jets above, professor Michael

It's hard to be a Danish professor at the University of Illinois (read out an email angrily denouncing his "put our response" and threatening the most co-operative of eco-enemies with "the Big Cuzell") from "those of us who believe we can no longer trust you." I assume the "Big Cuzell" alludes to autism and not anything likely to spoil one's meaning at an environmentally aware house. Incidentally, in this otherwise naive, professor Schlegler could the phrase "climate positivists," and it took one a while to figure out that was a reference to the Danish house (or rather than the academics. Well, given the news a publicity about the Scottish Science Society

doctor's bullying of dissenters, this hardly seems the time to threaten a dispirited doctor-scientist not for questioning the "science" but for making a joke. Actually, not even a joke, but merely a light-hearted acknowledgment.

Chris Jobs, but, once it's got the peer review label, it's hard to disbelieve. The famous stack graph created by Dr. Mitchell played a critical role in persuading me that people were all getting by. In the *New England Journal of Medicine*, in June, after the UN had this graph on the official press of global warming, I pointed out that the first case of the millennium was measured by two-ring cycles, and the modern era was measured by temperatures. Now I'm not a biologist. The answer is a radiocarbon dating. If you show me a graph that looks like a bangladesh with the Tropicana State Bar ranked on the end, I'll go, "Whoa! Whoa!"

pertry series. We have heard for the first time that the first print of the book was created with one unit of the series and the second unit of the series.

It's harder to 'hide the decline' in a Danish bordello than at the Climatic Research Unit

000, but in fact declines. That's why I, that Dr. Phil Jones, in his leaked memo, say to "bitch" because, if you don't have basic truths—ones that the blinders forced was warmer than today, and the message to survive and rid of the prey, say it. It took two dogged Canadians

McIntyre and Moss McKerick, to de-brooder and brood, and the emergence of the Settled Science cult have up to 10 years since 1996 trying to position such as Dr. Keith Boffa had a crash in 2007 IPCC report. As usual, the CRU refuted the findings of these scientific experts, it was new data, but eventually the Boffa ordered them to find, when they emerged that Dr. Boffa had cherry-picked data from the Yarnal peninsula

Answer guy, Eric Norberg (YAD961). That's it. One clue. The temperature records show no warming in Siberia over the last half century. But you can't use the fence for the same singular Mr. McIntyre cult that "there's still a small area in the world" which hardly does justice to what's been contemplated in his name. YAD961 is the Time of Life, at least in the sense that millions of lives across the world will, in its name, be transformed by ever greater taxation and regulation. And, Dr. Paulsen rebukes us, YAD961 can (and should) be questioned because it's not-reviewed. Every December the CRU (the made-up climate phony "non-scandalous" agency on an annual basis) brings and sing:

"O-Sorry-Dad! O-Sorry-Dad!
How lovely are thy cycles!
O-Sorry-Dad! O-Sorry-Dad!
At last, a match for Michael!"

Had he been around in work, Hans Christian Andersen, that genius of Copenhagen, might have given us a sequel to one of his famous tales—"The Emperor's New Clothes," perhaps. But an age in which the bookers are free but the British Parliament is proposing taxing each citizen with a "carbon allowance" is beyond satire. ■

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ON THE WEB: For book reviews, feature articles, interviews and recommended reading by celebrities, check out our new "Books Page" at www.teen.ca/teento



CHOOSING THIS YEAR'S WINNER WAS NO MEAN FEAT.

Though more than a little challenged to elect any single book in this year's superb crop of Canadian novels, we nonetheless extend our congratulations to Annabel Lyon, winner of the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for her novel *The Golden Mean*. Ms. Lyon takes us on a probing journey into the mind of Aristotle as he shapes the young Alexander the Great, forever altering the course of history. Congratulations as well to this year's other finalists: Alice Munro for her daring *Too Much Happiness*; Andrew Scrimgeour for his entertaining and poignant *Jack's Threespinny Theatre*; Douglas Coupland for his witty *Generation A*; and Nicole Brossard for her alluring work *Fences in Breathing* — all notable Canadian literary achievements in their own right.



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Tiger and I share a moment with Tiger the cherisher: I hold that I formed by defying the cherished bond of matrimony

We had something real, Tiger and I But I missed the signs. Like when he called me Rachel, then Jamie, Jamie again, then Vijay



SCOTT FRISCHKE

Thank you all for coming. Please, take a seat.

I have a confession to make. It's painful for me to reveal, but I'm a person of integrity and the truth must come out. I, Scott Frischke, humble magazine columnist, was one of Tiger Woods's mistresses.

With all we've learned these past couple of weeks, it's time to admit this. I feel so cheap and dirty when I read the tabloids, see the headlines or see these men and their dolls do to depict for you the precise mechanics of our love-making.

Hang on, I need to handkerchief all the way back to—there we go.

[At that point, he looks at the back of the room.] Could someone please tell Mr. Blümel I believe he's hired?

I've been today because I thought Tiger and I had something special, like in a fairy tale—but it turns out I was just another conquest. I was no better than the cocktail waitress, the restaurant manager, the sex player, those two kind of heavenly bodies, the Vancouver water polo team, the adult movie star, the professor and Mary Ann.

I can't describe to you the scene of betrayal I felt when I found out Tiger had been seeing me while cheating with me. I thought I alone shared with him the cherished bond that's formed by defying the cherished bond of matrimony. It makes me physically ill to think that all along, Tiger might have been telling others that their backs rotted him off (I'm Michael!).

I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm crying. Does any one have any Kleenex? Yes, please let me have some. In fact, there were many nights

but how could I have known? Tiger was always so romantic with me! He'd say such romantic things like "Don't tell anyone I was here," and "What's your name again?"

With the power of hindsight, of course, I can see that I missed certain signs. For example, there was that time he called me Rachel, then Jamie, then Jamie again, then Vijay. And what made it horrifying was that I was wearing one of the Hello My Name Is... stickers he insisted on bringing along.

Tiger would come to see by night. We'd sit up late, he'd make words to arrange our crazy encounters. For instance, he'd call me and say "I'm coming over for sex. You're not having your period or anything gross or stupid like that, are you?" Because that's a Disney's just up the street with the least best baggie! "And I'd giggle and say "The falcon punches atop the moonman." He'd have things up by then, but I enjoyed saying it anyway.

By the way, I'm not giving back the butt implants. He bought them for me and they're mine. And they are spectacular.

What's that? Yes, that's right. The same reason that did you, Mr. King.

Tiger treated me so well and made me feel so important. Being a cheap guy he always showed up with a special something. That's what he called his penis. "I got a special something for you," he'd say, and I'd laugh, and then he'd laugh, and then caddy Steve Williams would laugh because that's part of his job. And then Steve would flip through a magazine until Tiger needed some advice on his approach.

Tiger wasn't much for foreplay, I'd tell you. But he did like to talk while we were being intimate. In fact, there were many nights

when I couldn't get him to shut up! He'd do this thing where he'd proceed to talk on his cellphone the whole time—it was so cute—and he'd say things like "How'd the Nikes open?" and "I'll get the double the offer or I'm walking." I could even hear voices on the other end of the line—what's how recent? He was so creative, our special fantasy where I was Shooter and he was Gumbel and we were consummating a "long-term multi-platform endorsement commitment." He had such funny words for sex!

Don't get me wrong, we had our fights. One time I caught him in my bed smoking out with my hairbrushes, my accessories, two tennis machines and my Grand jewelry. But he ended it with a misunderstanding, and then he got me his version of a "Kobe special," a 10 per cent off coupon from the local Nike store. I ask you, how could I be expected to resist?

Tiger was protective. He didn't want when I talked about his wife or obviously watched her in the kitchen from a tree branch. Tiger said the dad's name has finally gotten over me—but that's why I was the old costume, right? I mean, I'm not crazy.

Also, my time with Tiger proved to be fleeting. He never showed up again after that one night when it dawned on him that I'm a guy. Tiger was usually here and gone so quickly that I had to call my editor to have her reworded with him. Plus I have soft hands.

I've been told that he's stopped calling. It's like a piece of my soul has gone missing. And all I wish with all the fishing ceremonies of our 1799 annual encounter is, along with the snapshots, videotapes, 6x6 photos, liveblogs and notated transmissions thereof. Let the bidding begin. H.

ON THE WEB: To read Frischke on the famous wife's blog mcclellan.ca/tyebuck

RUSSEL JOHN KARONIA: RE CUROTTE

1988-2009

A powerful athlete who was at home in and on the water, he became an avid hunter

Russel John Karonia-Currie was born on June 15, 1918, in Kabanawak, a native reserve southeast of Montreal, to John "White" Currie, a Kabanawak longhouse chief, and Grace Currie, a housewife. The fourth of five children brought up in the native tradition before doing so because of circumstances, Russel often travelled with his parents to longhouses of the Six Nations Confederacy.

He played first base on the Kabanawak Little League team—he had a strong though often-misplaced sense of humour. His friend Patrick (Pat) Loya, a lifeguard in his teenage years, remembers Russel as an avid swimmer who took to water "like a fish." His brother Joe co-founded the Oka-Carleton Club in 1972, and Russel loved paddling. He was a natural, at five feet eight, with big shoulders and lots of muscle, he easily cut through the rough currents of the St. Lawrence River, where he had practiced. In 1975, just prior to the Montreal Olympics, he and his partner Ray MacCumber bought a building on the Kabanawak paddling team, and became known as Kabanawak's only Kabanawak paddlers.

His physique also made him an ideal wrestler, as he came to do as a student at Howard S. Belknap School in neighbouring Châteauguay. He went on to Champlain College in Lennoxville, and was known alternately as a quiet, friendly fellow and a somewhat wilder or Champin football team. He mostly hung around with people from Kabanawak, one of them, Kirby Jacobs, he'd known since Grade 1. They began dating shortly after Russel returned from a year at the University of New Brunswick, in 1978, and married in 1981. Russel left UNB's physical education program when he got word that the Mohawk Council of Kabanawak was opening a high school, and would need teachers. He taught physical education at the newly named Kabanawak Survival School, and completed his degree at McGill in 1984, the same year his and Kirby's first boy, Aconha-wahkon, was born. He also co-founded the high school's wrestling team, trained the Kabanawak junior lacrosse team, and coached the Oka-Carleton women's ice hockey team.

Russel joined the village as a law brigade as well as the Kabanawak Conservation Department. As a conservation officer, his duties

included patrolling the reserve's wooded areas—offensive positions were set up—and rescuing beaver stranded on the St. Lawrence. Russel was part of a growing number of Inuit who "sawed beaver"—not compelled by their jobs, usually in the construction industry, to leave the reserve. His second son, Kabanawak, was born in 1986, the same year as the Oka Crisis. Kabanawak created a blockade of the Merrett Bridge in solidarity with the Kabanawak reserve near Oka. During this time, Russel helped ferry Kabanawak's food and supplies over the St. Lawrence by boat.

In 1994, at 36, Russel became the youngest principal of the Kabanawak Survival School. He began hunting at about the same time, mostly on a Kabanawak territory in the Laurentians. Every fall, Russel and a group of friends often planned a hunting trip, often to other reserves in Canada. Loya and Berni Church in New Brunswick and, more recently, the Kabanawak in Ontario were about 100 km west of Winnipeg. Kabanawak's territory was in the mountains, bear and deer, and Russel, who started the trip for two years, was particularly keen to go this year. He and five friends piled into two trucks and drove 11 hours straight, arriving at the reserve on Oct. 13.

The group split into pairs, with Russel and Dwight Moore going off to a hunting blind near a lake. They shot two moose, a cow and a calf, and returned to camp to recruit others to help drag the carcases back. There was no one there, however, so after dinner the pair left a note and returned to the two downed moose. Because of the animals' bait, the pair decided to use their best to trap the water behind their carcase. They went out about 90 m from shore, where the water was no more than five feet deep. As one point the canoe tipped, spilling Russel and Dwight into the water.

Unable to right the canoe, the pair instead struggled along, Dwight at the bow and Russel at the stern, pulling the canoe and the moose through the mud and deep water. Russel stopped talking about 10 m from land. Dwight, his hands and the steering mechanism or oarlocks who had just arrived dragged him into the boat and tried to revive him, to no avail. He died of cardiac arrest. Kirby brought up by the shock of the cold water. He was 51 years old.

BY MARTIN PATRIZIO



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